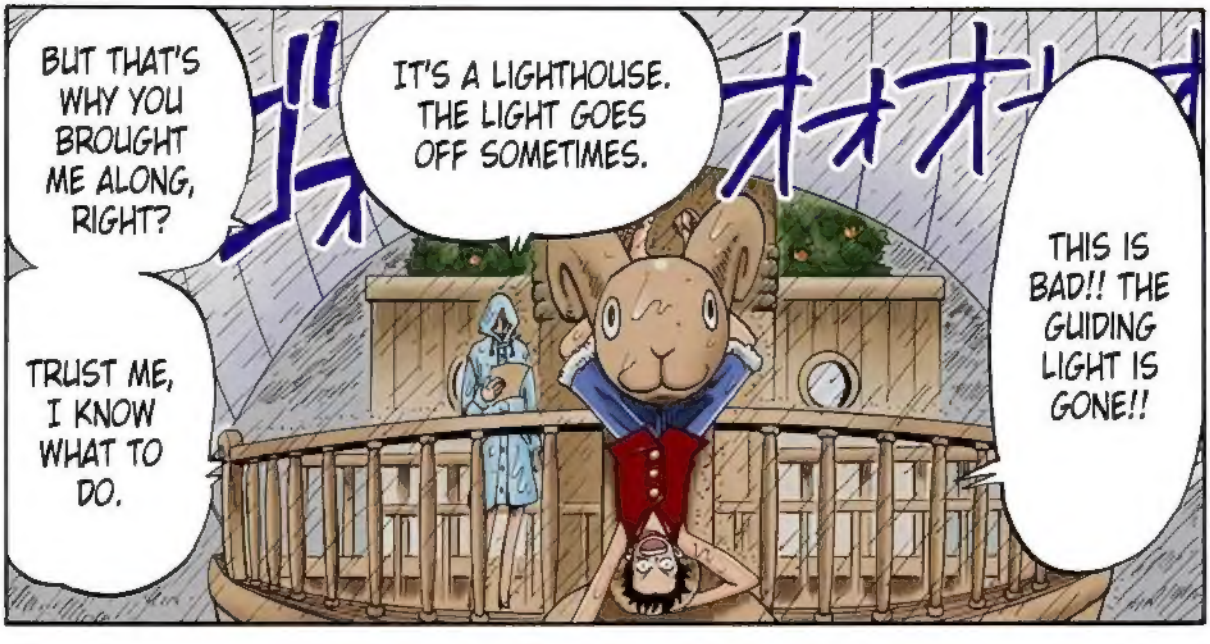
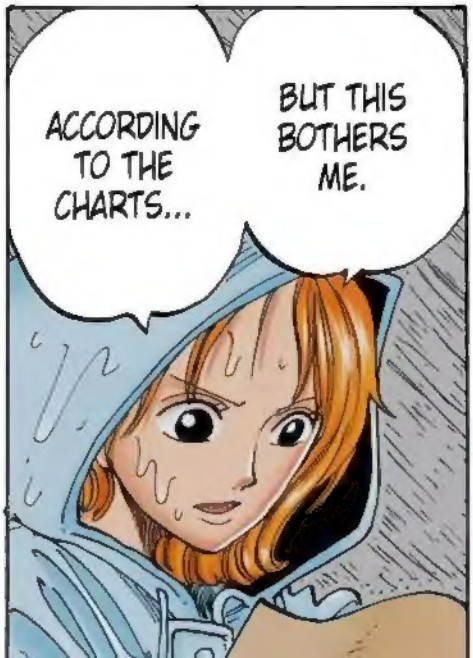
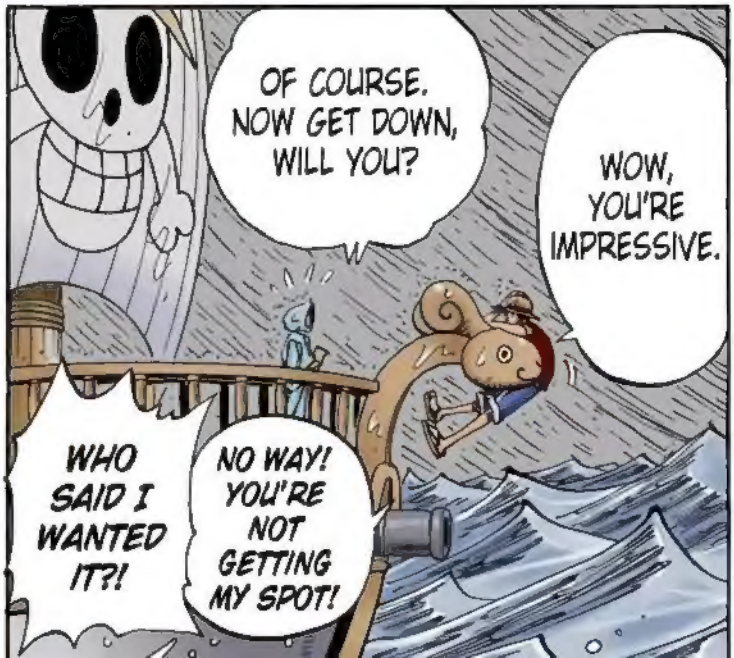
Chapter 101: REVERSE MOUNTAIN

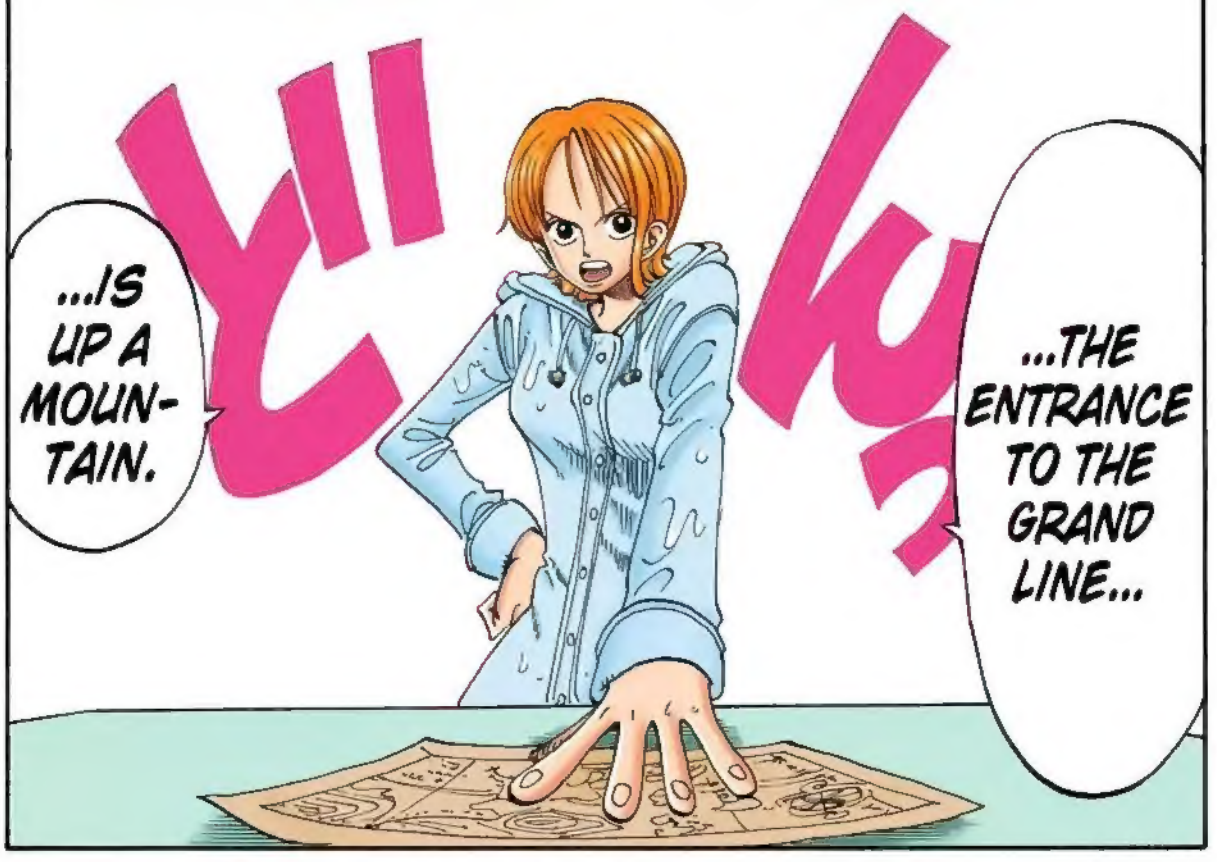
DIARY OF KOBY-MEPPO, VOLUME 16: "OBSTRUCTION OF OBSTRUCTION OF BOMBARDMENT OBSTRUCTION"

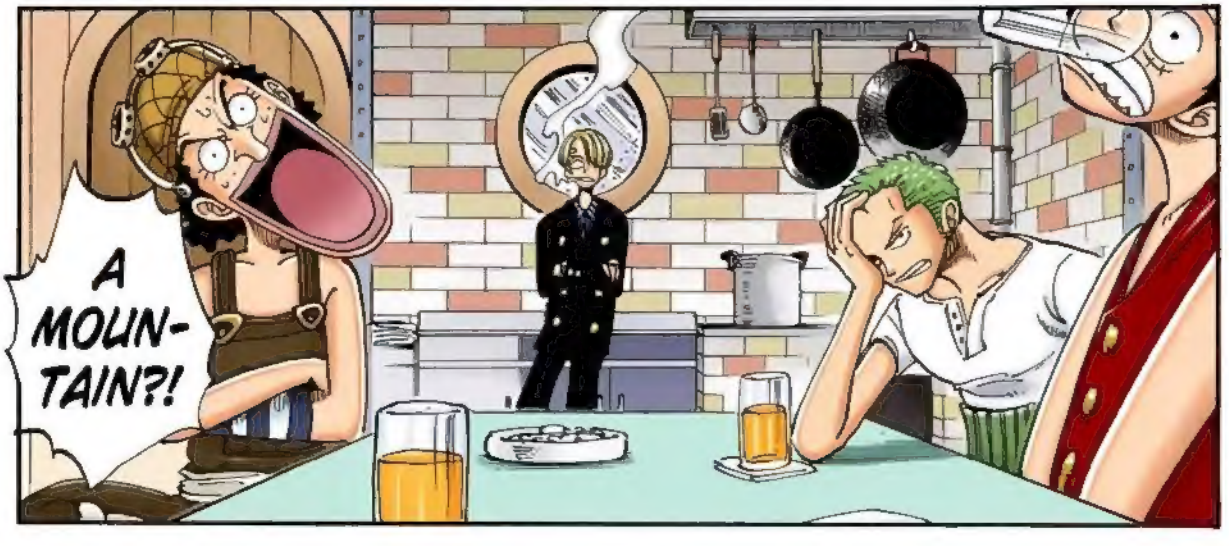
THE LIGHT'S GONE OUT!
OH NO, NAMI!

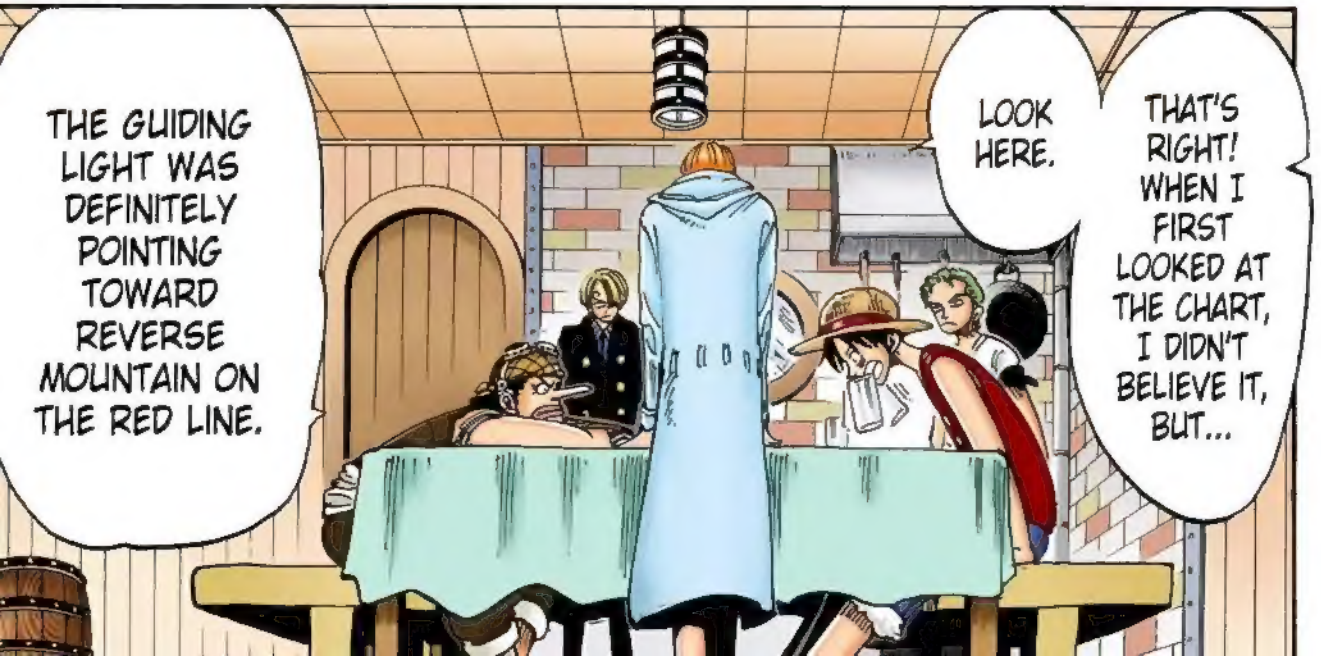

BUT THAT'S WHY YOU BROUGHT ME ALONG, RIGHT?
IT'S A LIGHTHOUSE. THE LIGHT GOES OFF SOMETIMES.
THIS IS BAD!! THE GUIDING LIGHT IS GONE!!
TRUST ME, I KNOW WHAT TO DO.

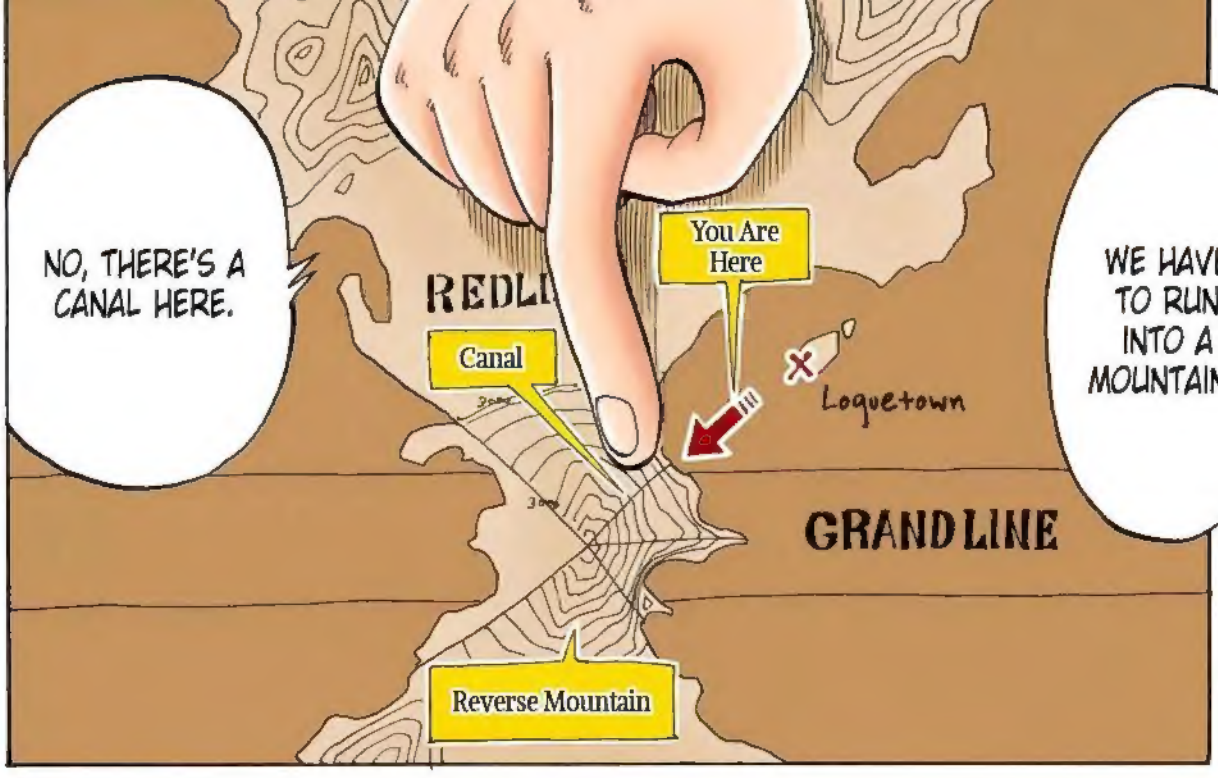

ACCORDING TO THE CHARTS...
BUT THIS BOTHERS ME.

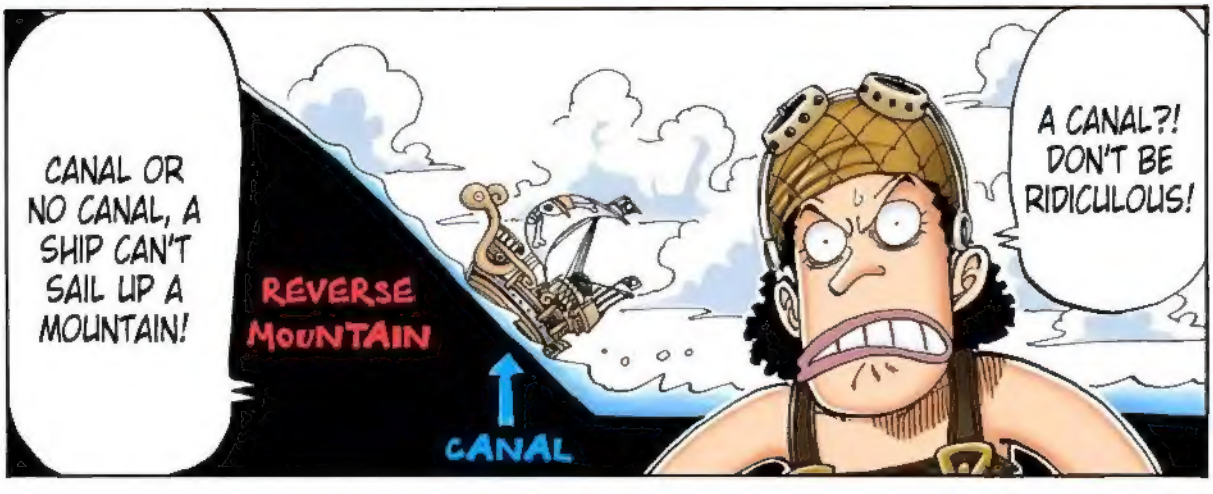

OF COURSE. NOW GET DOWN, WILL YOU?
WOW, YOU'RE IMPRESSIVE.
WHO SAID I WANTED IT?!
NO WAY! YOU'RE NOT GETTING MY SPOT!


...IS UP A MOUN-TAIN.
...THE ENTRANCE TO THE GRAND LINE...


A MOUN-TAIN?!

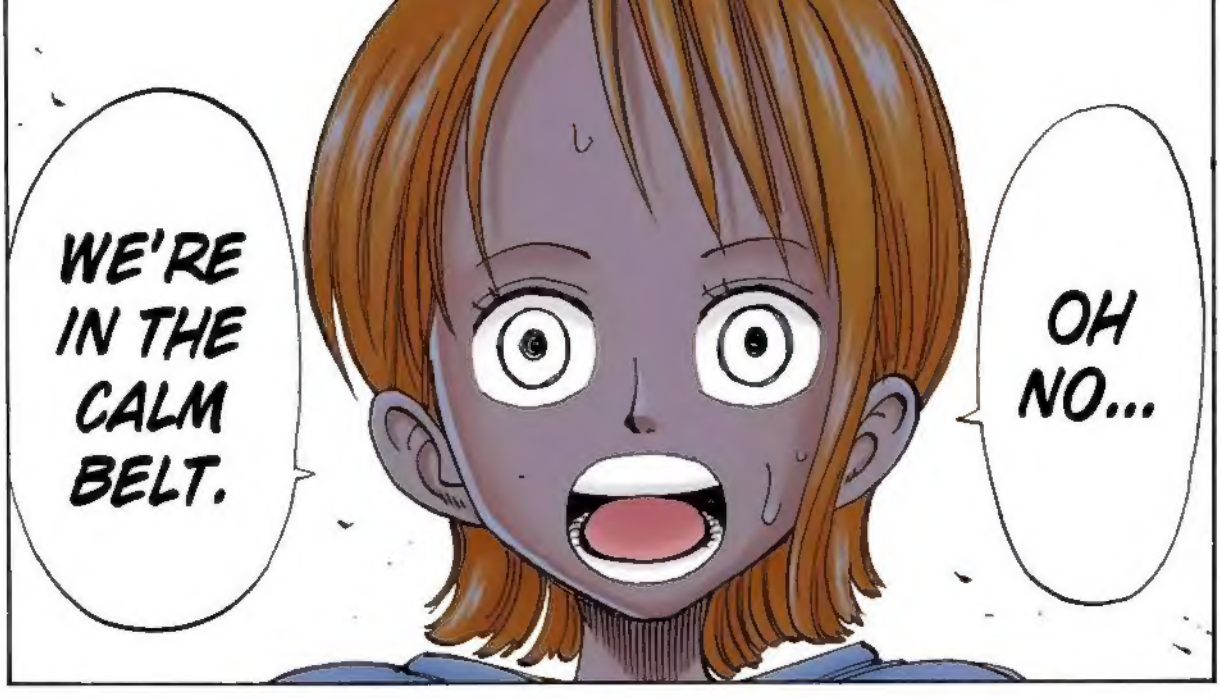

THE GUIDING LIGHT WAS DEFINITELY POINTING TOWARD REVERSE MOUNTAIN ON THE RED LINE.
LOOK HERE.
THAT'S RIGHT! WHEN I FIRST LOOKED AT THE CHART, I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT, BUT...

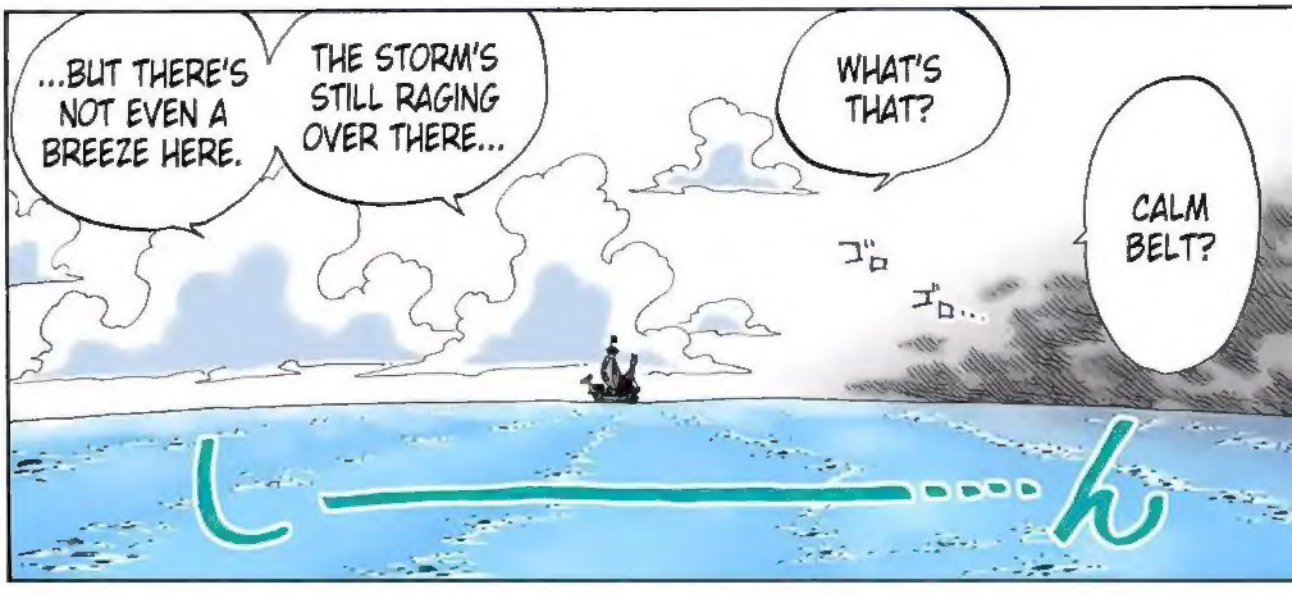

NO, THERE'S A CANAL HERE.
REDLI
You Are Here
Canal
Loguetown
GRAND LINE
Reverse Mountain
WE HAVE TO RUN INTO A MOUNTAIN?


CANAL OR NO CANAL, A SHIP CAN'T SAIL UP A MOUNTAIN!
REVERSE MOUNTAIN
CANAL
A CANAL?! DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!

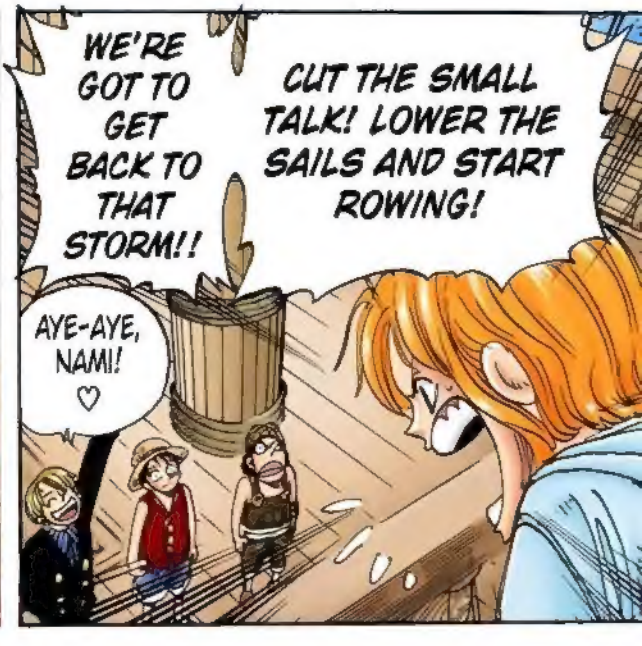
WE'RE CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN IN A SHIP? YIPPEE!!!
BUT YOU STOLE THAT MAP FROM BUGGY. CAN WE TRUST IT?
LISTEN, YOU GUYS. NAMI'S ALWAYS RIGHT WHEN IT COMES TO CHARTS AND NAVIGATION.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT THE MAP SAYS.
MUST BE A MYS-TERY MOUN-TAIN!!

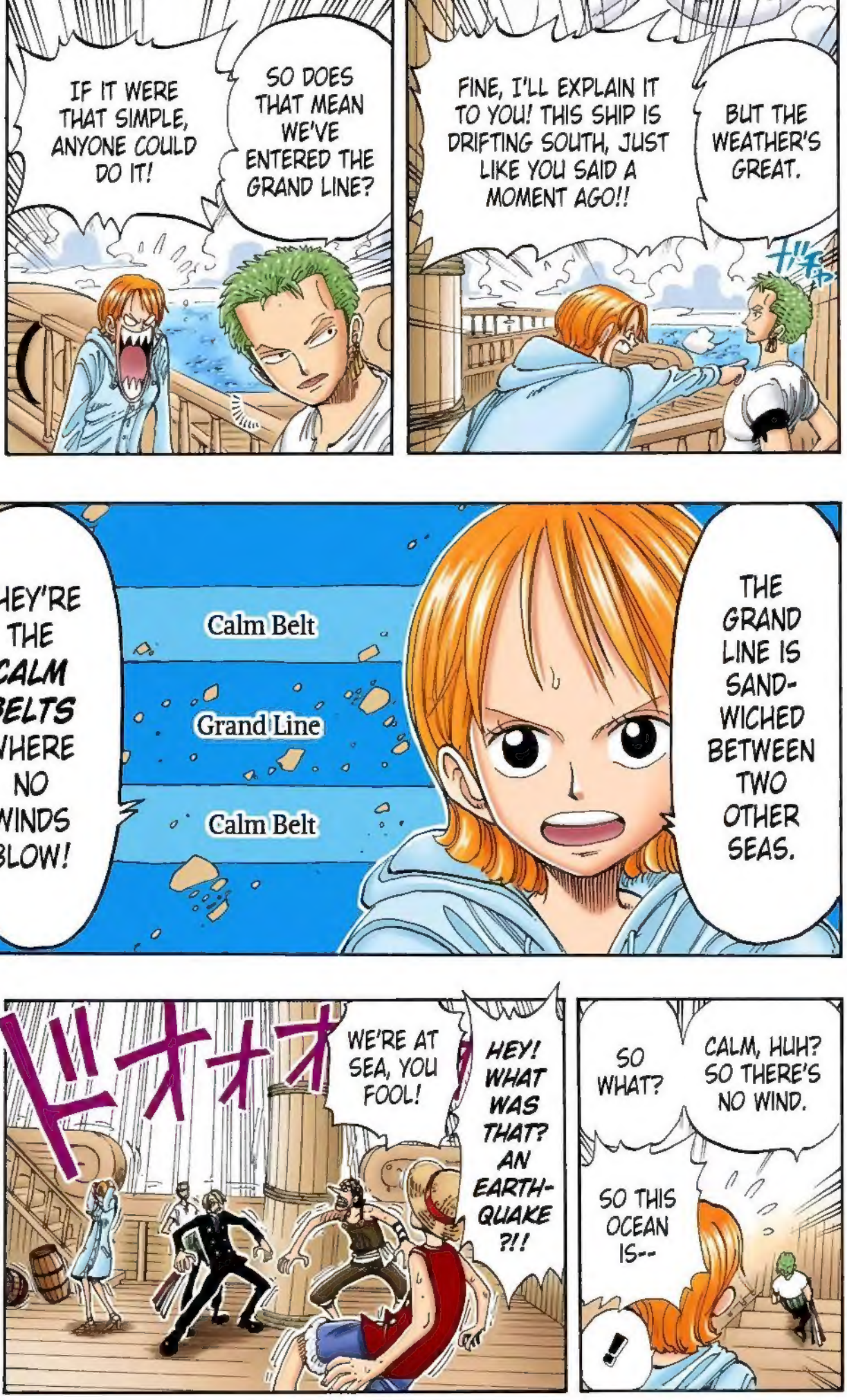
HE'S RIGHT. THERE'S A GOOD REASON FOR IT.
NO WAY!
CAN'T WE JUST SAIL SOUTH AND GO IN FROM ANYWHERE?
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH AN ENTRANCE, ANYWAY?
HEY! HOW WEIRD. THE STORM'S GONE ALL OF A SUDDEN.
YEAH, IT'S CALM.
THAT'S NOT IT!!
IT'D FEEL ALL WRONG IF WE DIDN'T GO THROUGH THE ENTRANCE!!
ガン!!
Are you crazy?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AH! THE WEATHER'S BEAUTIFUL!!
HA HA HA HA HA!
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO RIDE THE STORM RIGHT UP TO THE ENTRANCE!
WHAT?
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.


OH NO...
WE'RE IN THE CALM BELT.


CALM BELT?
WHAT'S THAT?
THE STORM'S STILL RAGING OVER THERE...
...BUT THERE'S NOT EVEN A BREEZE HERE.
ゴゴ
ゴゴ...

JUST DO WHAT I TELL YOU!!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE STORM?
WHY ARE YOU SO WORKED UP? "ROW"? DON'T YOU KNOW THIS IS A SAIL SHIP?

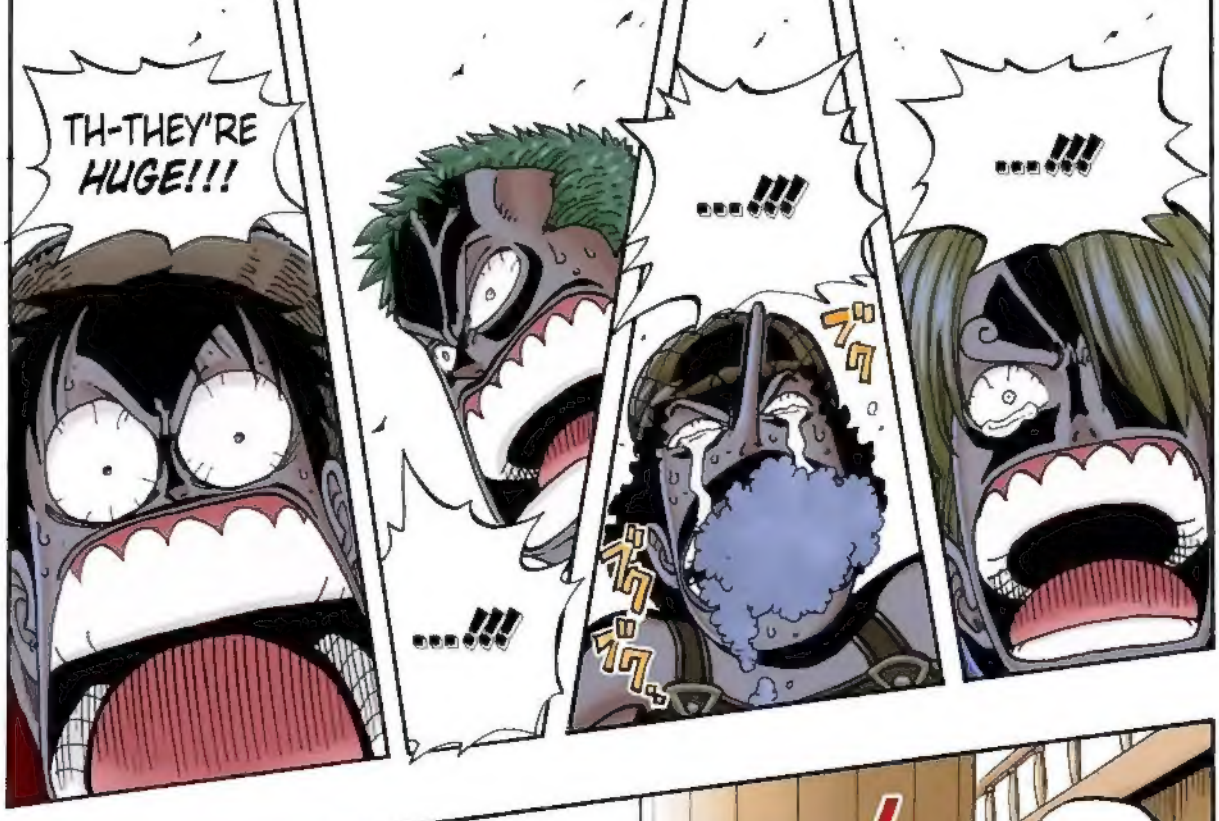

WE'RE GOT TO GET BACK TO THAT STORM!!
CUT THE SMALL TALK! LOWER THE SAILS AND START ROWING!
AYE-AYE, NAMI! ♡

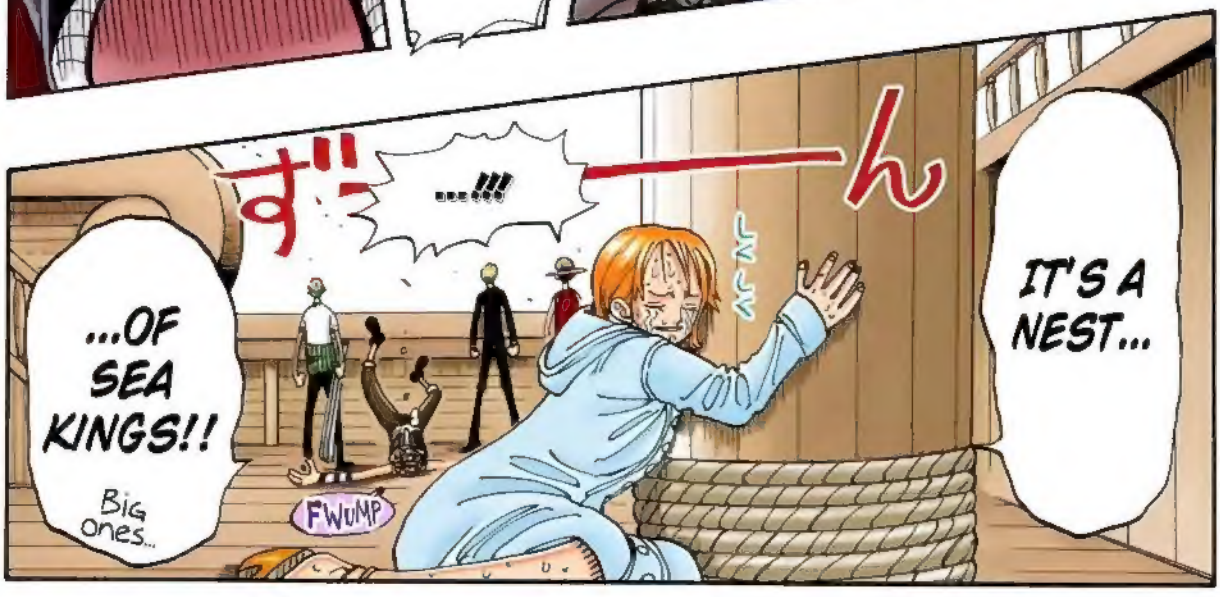

IF IT WERE THAT SIMPLE, ANYONE COULD DO IT!
SO DOES THAT MEAN WE'VE ENTERED THE GRAND LINE?
FINE, I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU! THIS SHIP IS DRIFTING SOUTH, JUST LIKE YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO!!
BUT THE WEATHER'S GREAT.
THEY'RE THE CALM BELTS WHERE NO WINDS BLOW!
Calm Belt
Grand Line
Calm Belt
THE GRAND LINE IS SAND-WICHED BETWEEN TWO OTHER SEAS.
ドオオオ
WE'RE AT SEA, YOU FOOL!
HEY! WHAT WAS THAT? AN EARTH-QUAKE ?!!
SO WHAT?
CALM, HUH? SO THERE'S NO WIND.
SO THIS OCEAN IS--
!

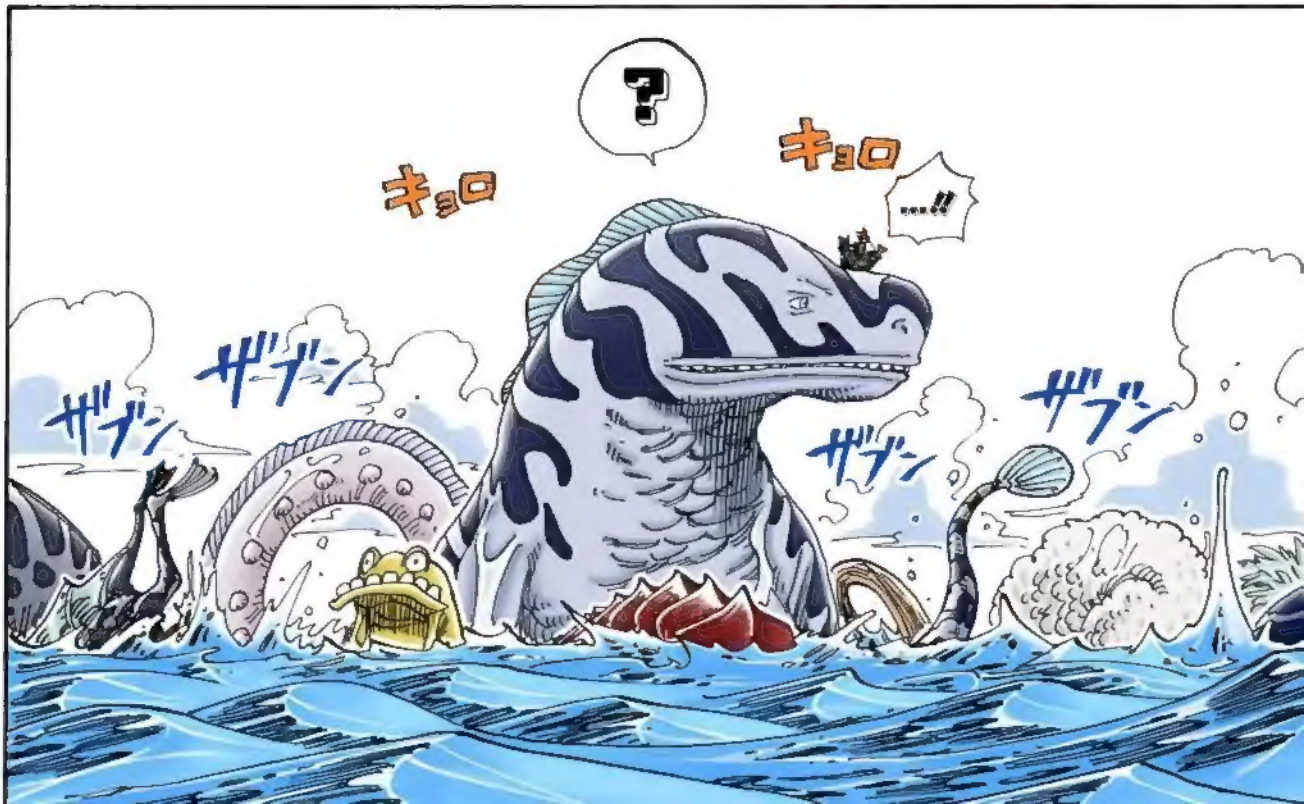
...!!!

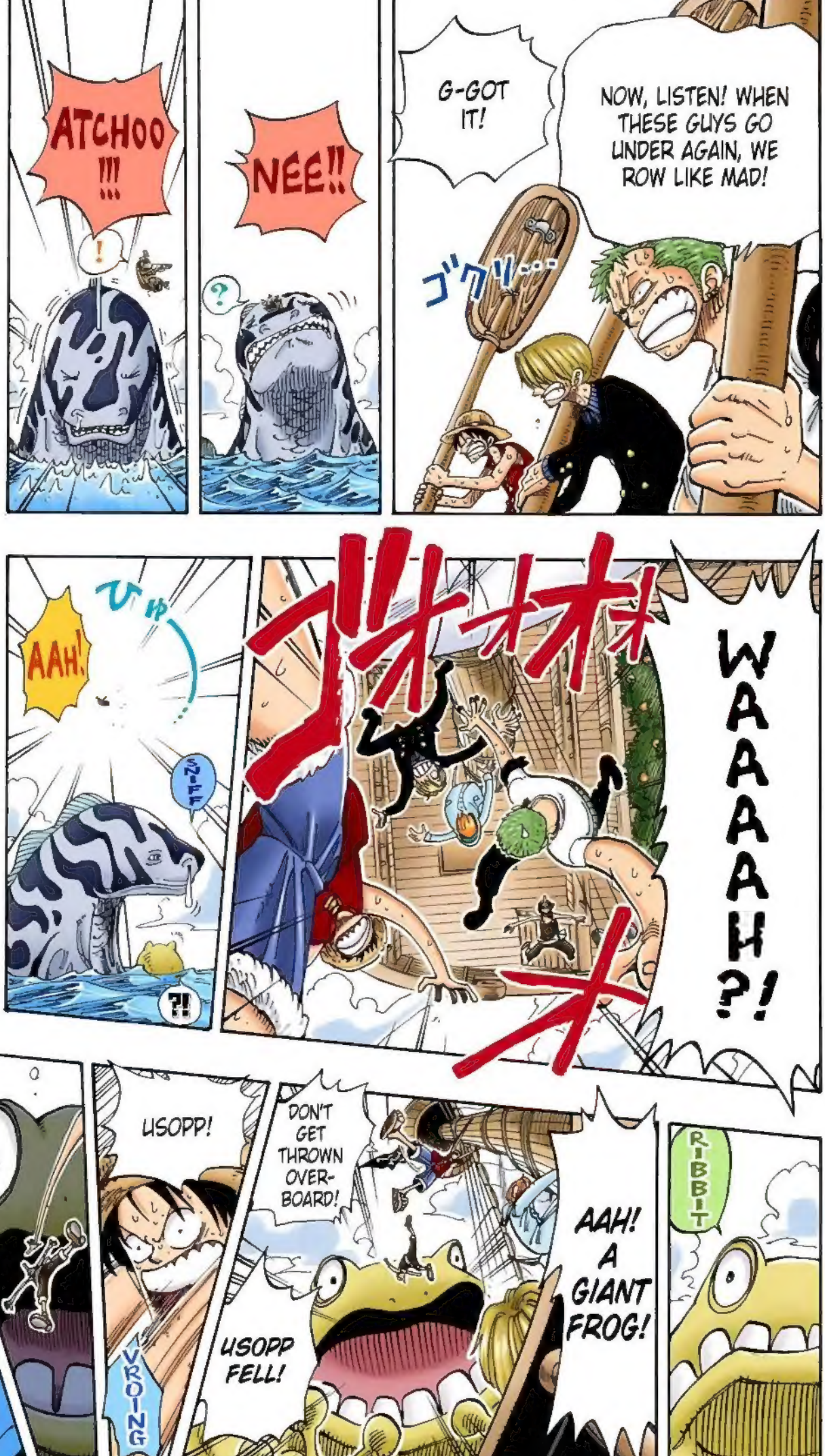
?

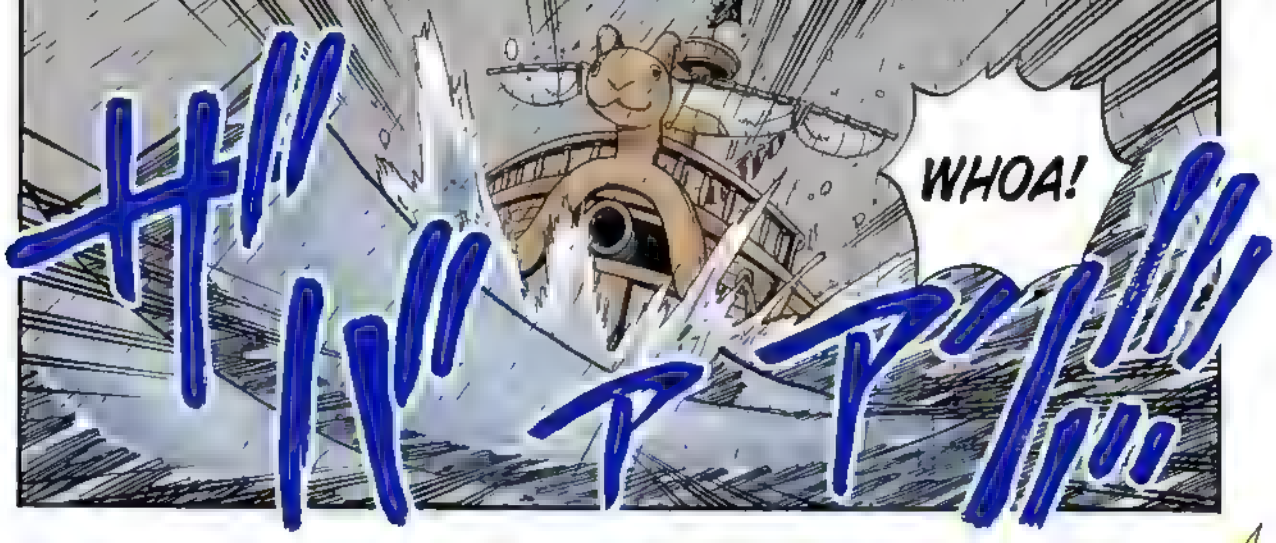
?!!!

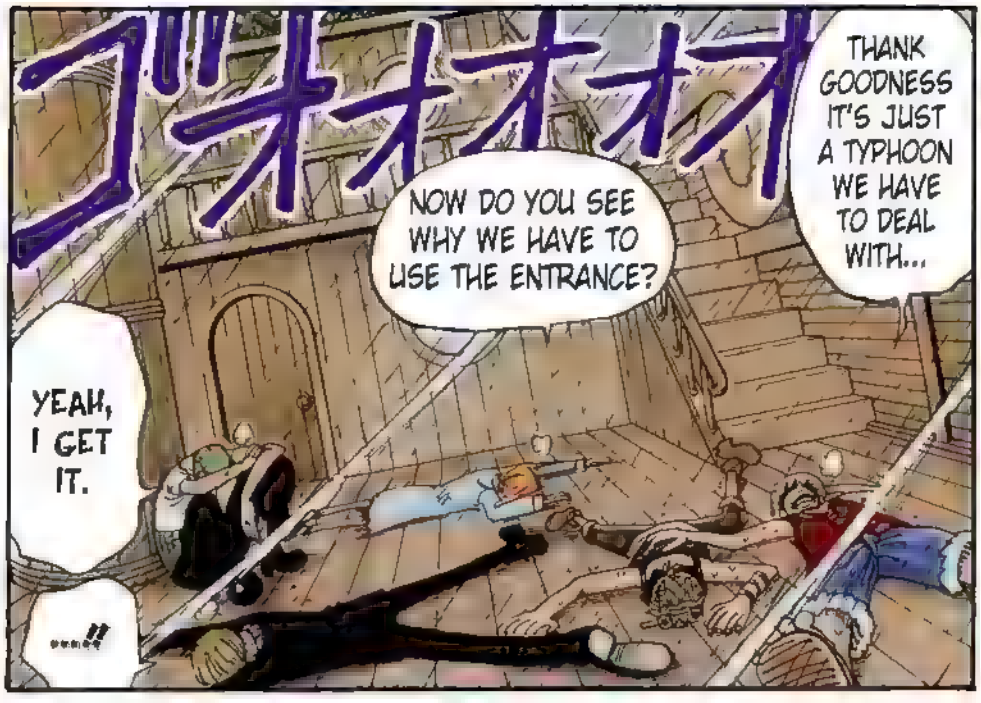

TH-THEY'RE HUGE!!!
...!!!
...!!!
ブク
ブクブク
...!!!


IT'S A NEST...
ずーーーん
...!!!
...OF SEA KINGS!!
Big ones...
FWUMP

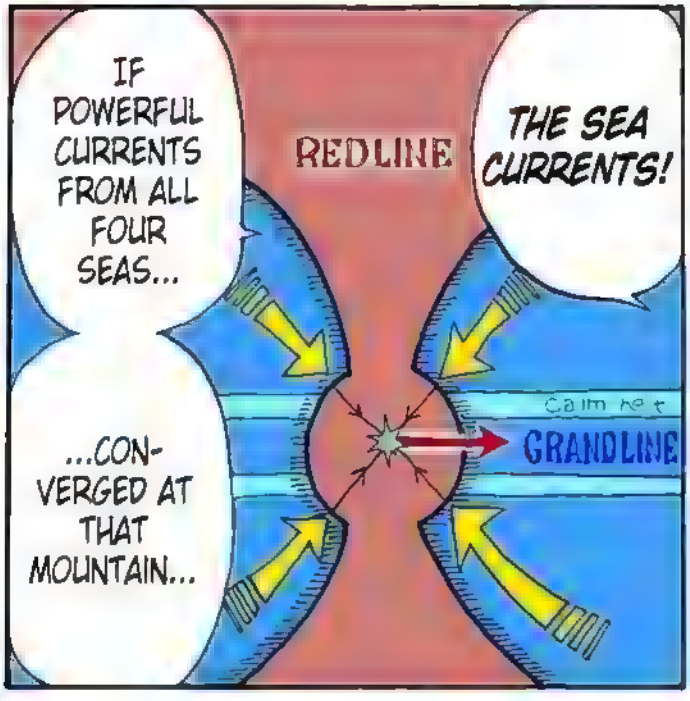

?
キョロ
キョロ
...!!
ザブン
ザブン
ザブン
ザブン

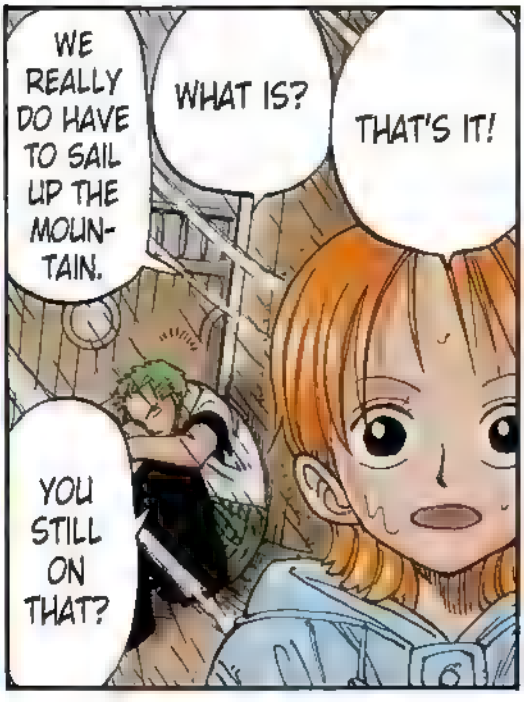

ATCHOO !!!
NEE!!
G-GOT IT!
NOW, LISTEN! WHEN THESE GUYS GO UNDER AGAIN, WE ROW LIKE MAD!
ゴクリ…
AAH!
ひゅ
SNIFF
ゴオオオオオ
WAAAAAH?!
USOPP!
VROING
USOPP FELL!
DON'T GET THROWN OVER-BOARD!
AAH! A GIANT FROG!
RIBBIT


WHOA!


NOW DO YOU SEE WHY WE HAVE TO USE THE ENTRANCE?
THANK GOODNESS IT'S JUST A TYPHOON WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH...
YEAH, I GET IT.
...!!

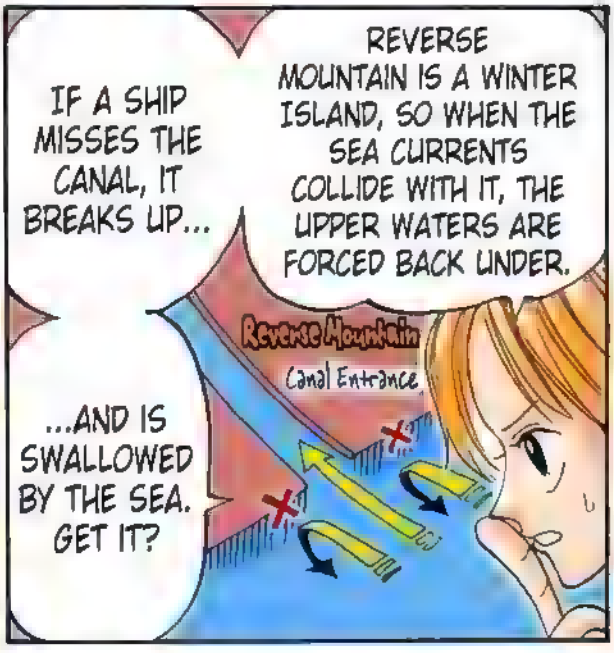
FWASH!
BLUG BLUG


IF POWERFUL CURRENTS FROM ALL FOUR SEAS...
REDLINE
THE SEA CURRENTS!
...CONVERGED AT THAT MOUNTAIN...
Calm Belt
GRANDLINE

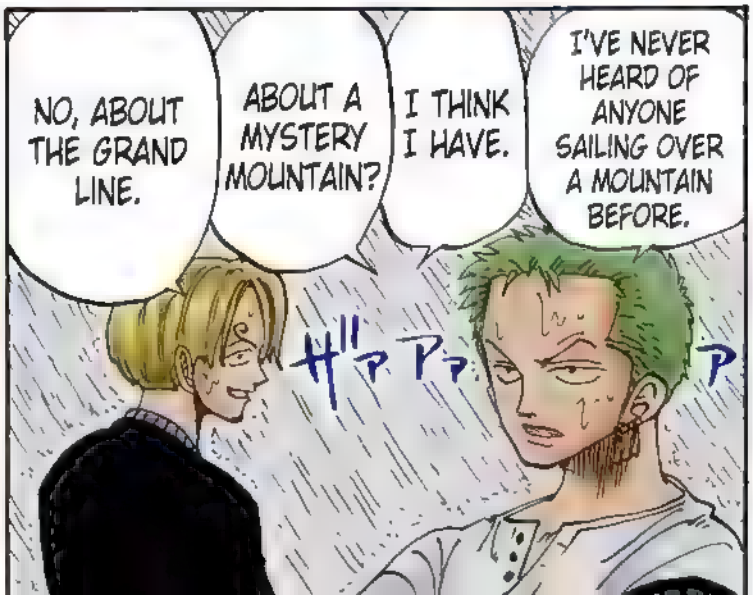

WE REALLY DO HAVE TO SAIL UP THE MOUNTAIN.
WHAT IS?
THAT'S IT!
YOU STILL ON THAT?

THIS SHIP IS ALREADY RIDING THE CURRENT, SO ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS STEER.
...AND FLOW OUT INTO THE GRAND LINE!
...THE WATERS WOULD RUSH UP THE SIDES THROUGH THE CANALS, COLLIDE AT THE TOP...
Calm Belt
Grand Line
Calm Belt
East Blue

NAMI, YOU'RE WON-DEFUL! ♡
I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND...
AHA! IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S A MYSTERY MOUNTAIN.
は、は、は、


IF A SHIP MISSES THE CANAL, IT BREAKS UP...
REVERSE MOUNTAIN IS A WINTER ISLAND, SO WHEN THE SEA CURRENTS COLLIDE WITH IT, THE UPPER WATERS ARE FORCED BACK UNDER.
...AND IS SWALLOWED BY THE SEA. GET IT?
Reverse Mountain
Canal Entrance

I KNEW IT WOULDN'T BE EASY.
I HEARD YOU'VE GOT TO BE HALF-DEAD BEFORE YOU ENTER IT.

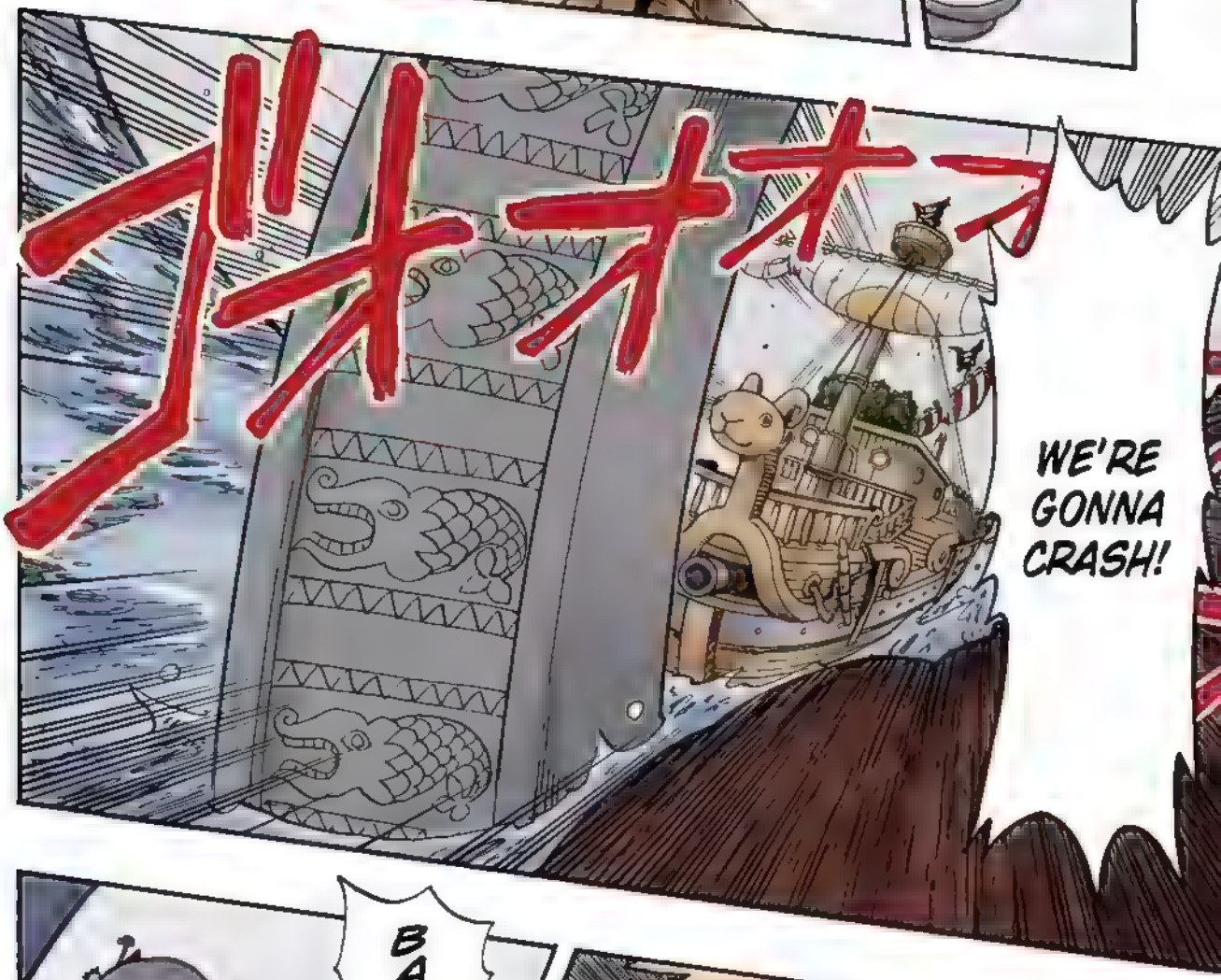

NO, ABOUT THE GRAND LINE.
ABOUT A MYSTERY MOUNTAIN?
I THINK I HAVE.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE SAILING OVER A MOUNTAIN BEFORE.
ガアアア

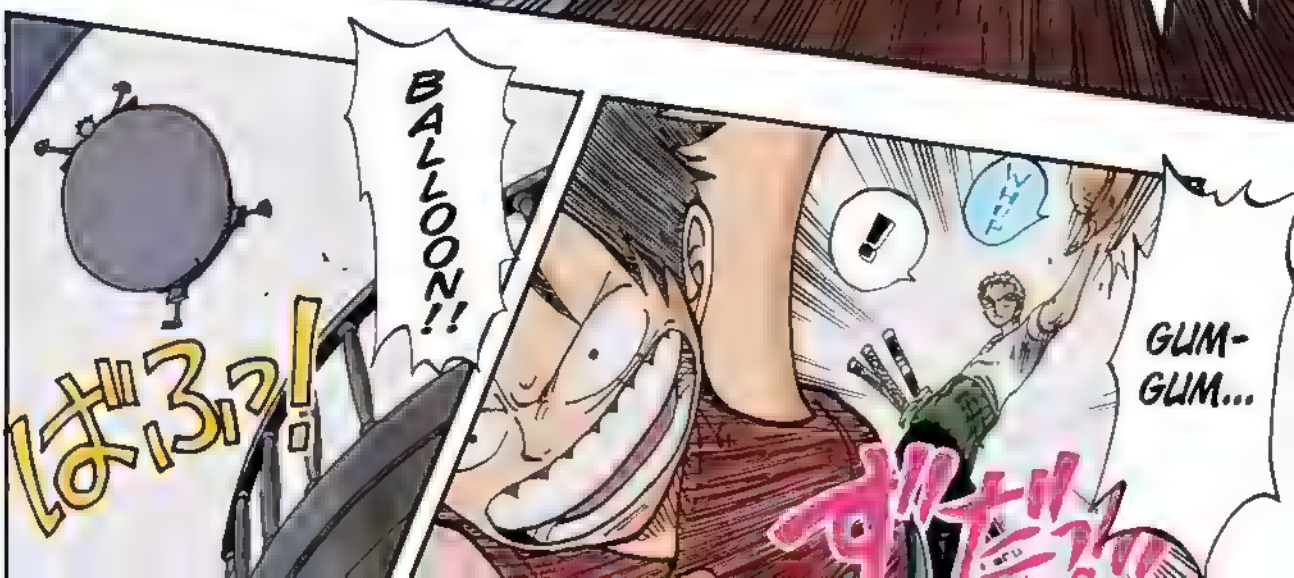
THERE'S THE MYSTERY MOUN-TAIN!!
WAIT!
WHAT'S THAT SHADOW BEHIND IT?!
IT'S HUGE !!!
WHOA...

ゴオオオオ
THAT'S THE RED LINE.
THE SUMMIT IS LOST IN THE CLOUDS.

LEAVE IT TO US!
WOW...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
WE'RE BEING SUCKED IN! STEER CARE-FULLY!
IT'S TRUE! THE OCEAN...
...IS RUSHING UP THE MOUNTAIN.
IT'S THE ENTRANCE TO THE CANAL!
HERE WE GO!
RIGHT?!
YOU MEAN STAR-BOARD!
WE'RE A LITTLE OFF! MORE TO THE RIGHT! RIGHT!

THE WHIP-STAFF!

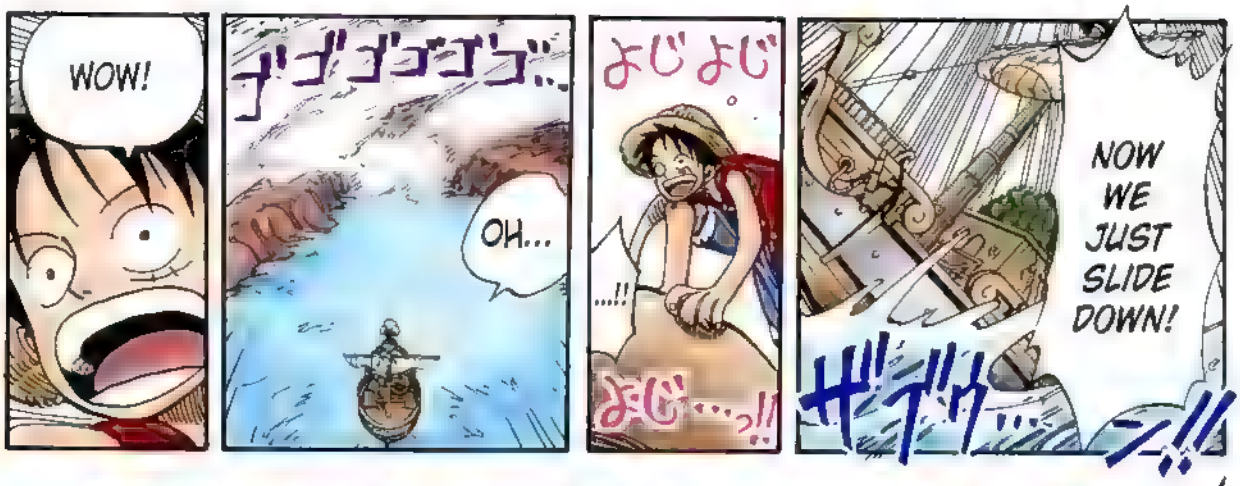

ゴオオオ
WE'RE GONNA CRASH!

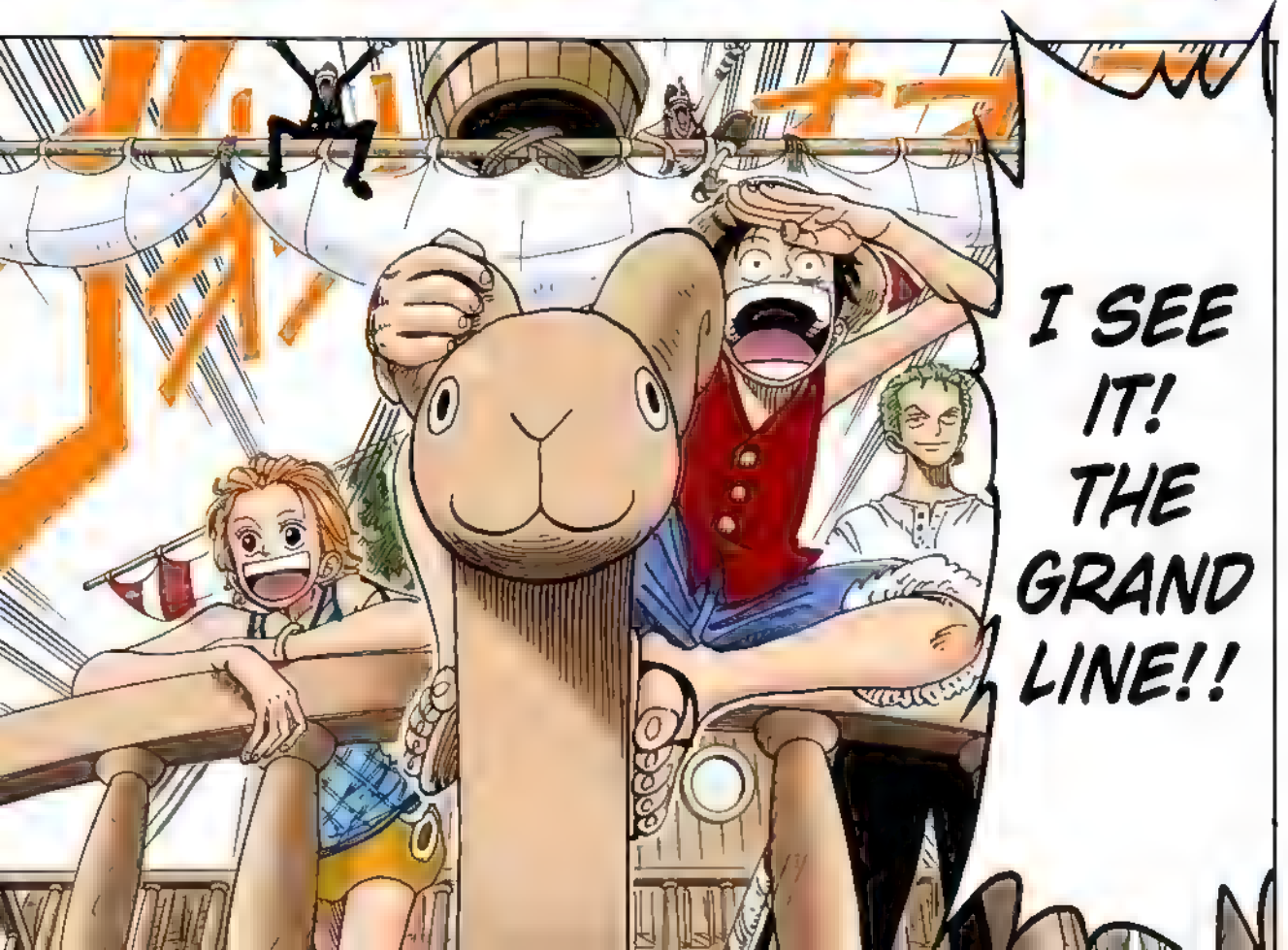

BALLOON!!
はろっ!
!
GUM-GUM...

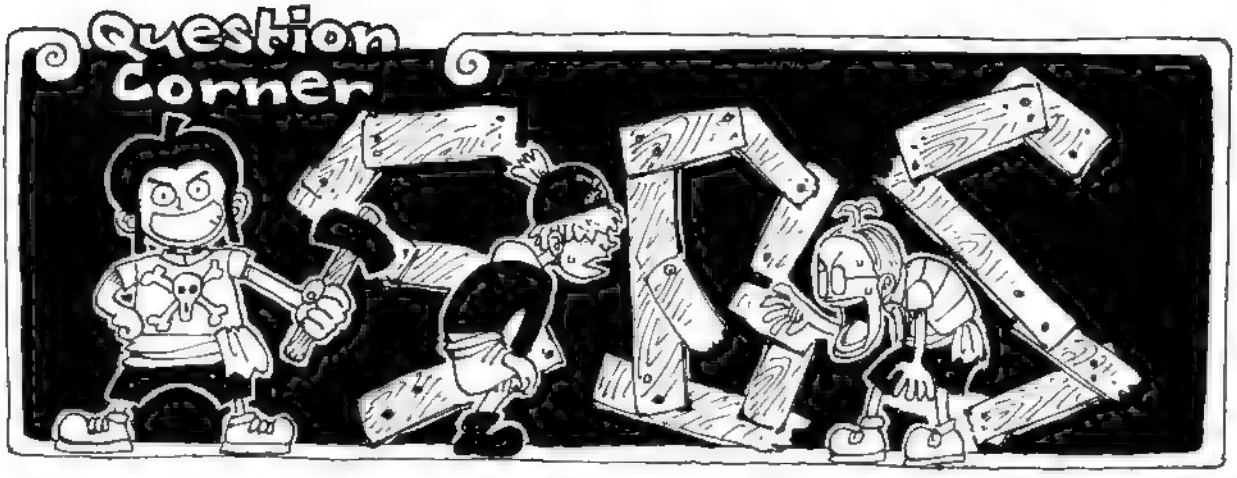
...
と!!
む!!!
ばいばーん!!
!!!
AAH!
LUFFY, GRAB HOLD!
WE'RE SAVED!

ガシ
ガッガッ…
バキッ
WE'RE IN!!
ドオオオ

YIKES!


WOW!
OH...
NOW WE JUST SLIDE DOWN!


I SEE IT! THE GRAND LINE!!



Q: Here's a question for Oda Sensei. Zoro, Sanji, and Nami look too young to be drinking alcohol. Should they be doing that?

A: No.

Q: I don't usually do things like this, but I just had to send this to you. Here's a challenge for you. Try saying these words three times: akatakoashikiken, kitakoashikiken, chatakoashikiken.* (Please print this in the SBS.)

A: Oh, a tongue twister, eh? This one's easy. Ready and...

AchakaBatasaBadarappa!!!

Okay, next.

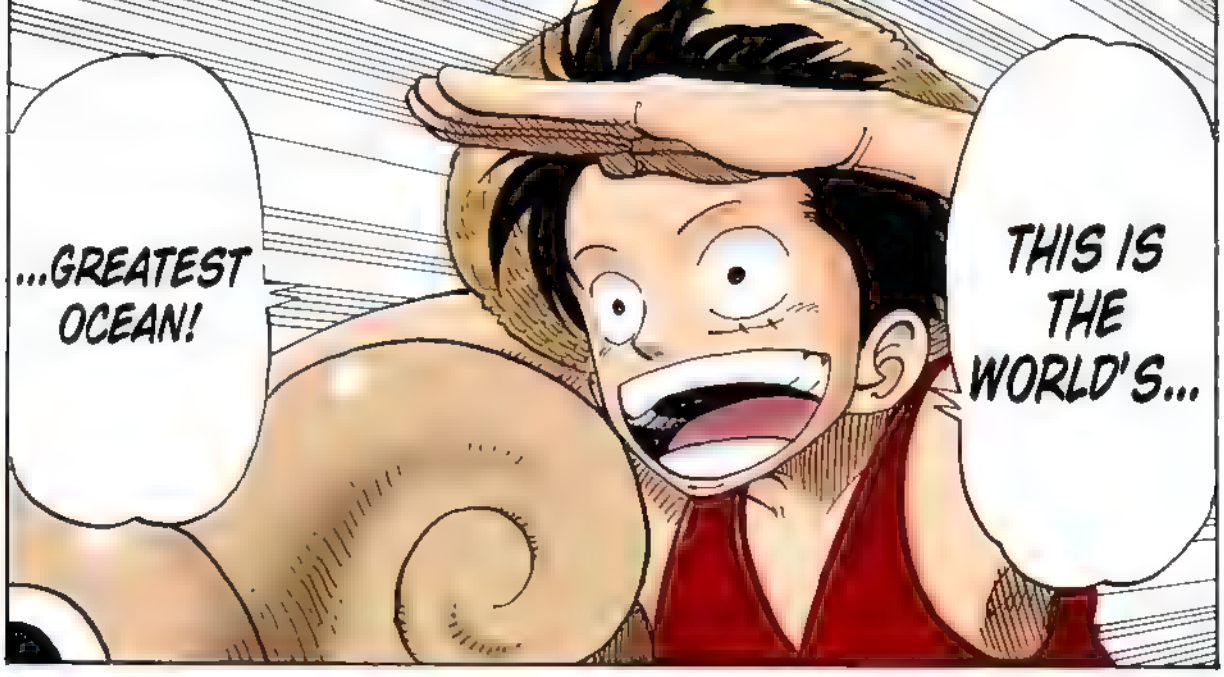
Q: Oda Sensei, I've always wanted to ask you this. At the end of the Japanese volume, it says that photocopying without permission from the author is an infringement of copyright, but is it okay to photocopy things like the class schedule? Please tell me. From Koby's cheerful friend no. 3.

A: The illustrations on that page are rather complicated, but I've already gotten permission from the various parties, so it's okay. As far as the class schedule is concerned, I got word from people saying, "At our school, we have eight periods." Please, give me a break. I'm sorry. I guess your studies must keep you very busy...

*These three tongue twisters play on the name of Hachi's Tentacle-Sword Overload (takoashi kiken) attack, which itself is a play on the Japanese term for the dangers of plugging too many appliances into an outlet. --Ed.

Chapter 102:
AND NOW, THE GRAND LINE

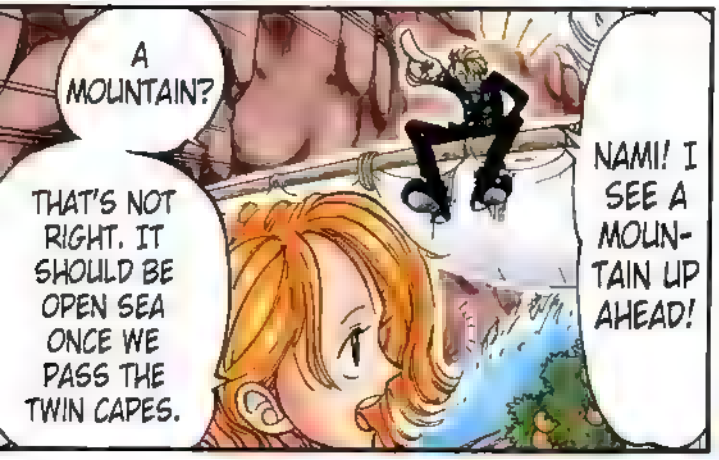
DIARY OF KOBY-MEPPO
VOLUME 17: "HELPMEPPO'S DETERMINATION"


THIS IS THE WORLD'S...
...GREATEST OCEAN!

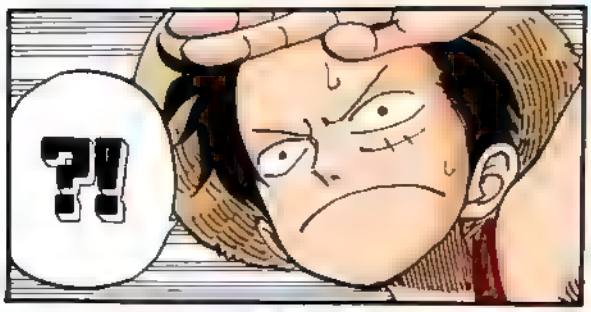
ルオオオ
LET'S GO!!

!
BWAAH!!

MAYBE IT'S THE WIND. THERE ARE PROBABLY LOTS OF UNUSUAL ROCK FORMATIONS AROUND HERE.
WHO CARES? LET'S GO!
あああ
WHAT WAS THAT? DID YOU HEAR SOME-THING?


A MOUNTAIN?
THAT'S NOT RIGHT. IT SHOULD BE OPEN SEA ONCE WE PASS THE TWIN CAPES.
NAMI! I SEE A MOUN-TAIN UP AHEAD!

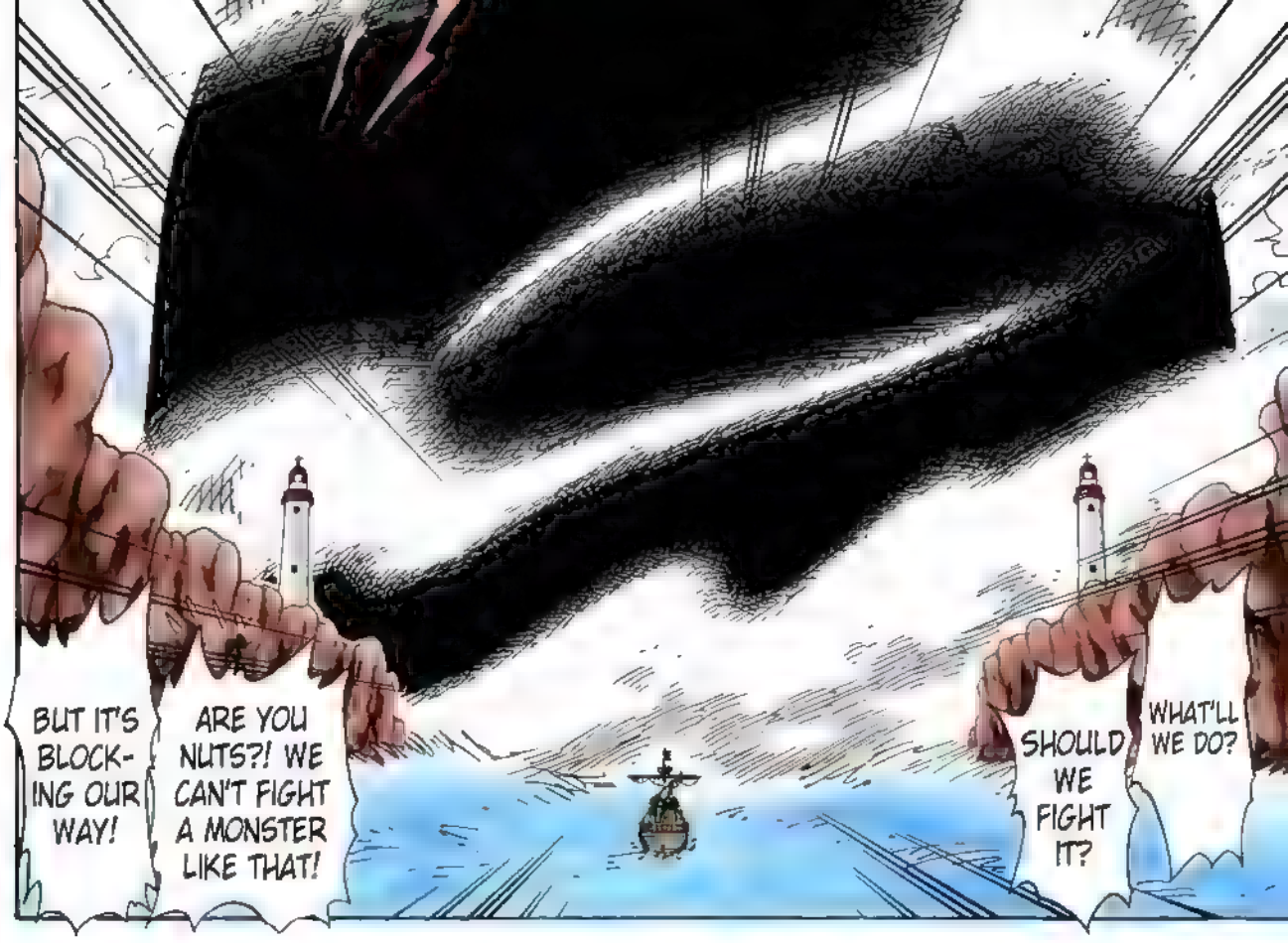
KLIK KLIK...
HEY... WHAT'S THAT?
BWAAH!!

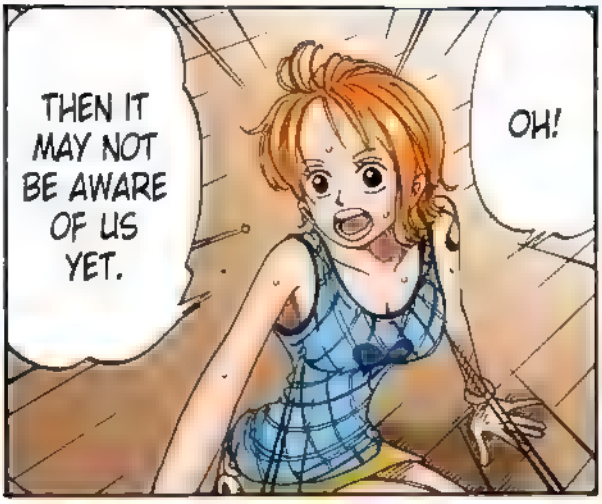

?!

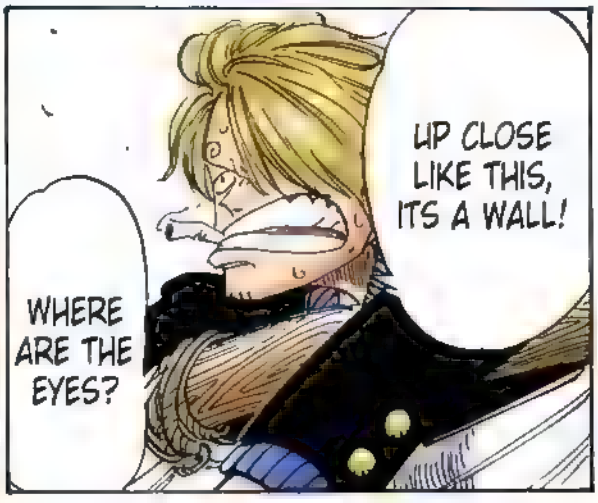
BWAAH!!

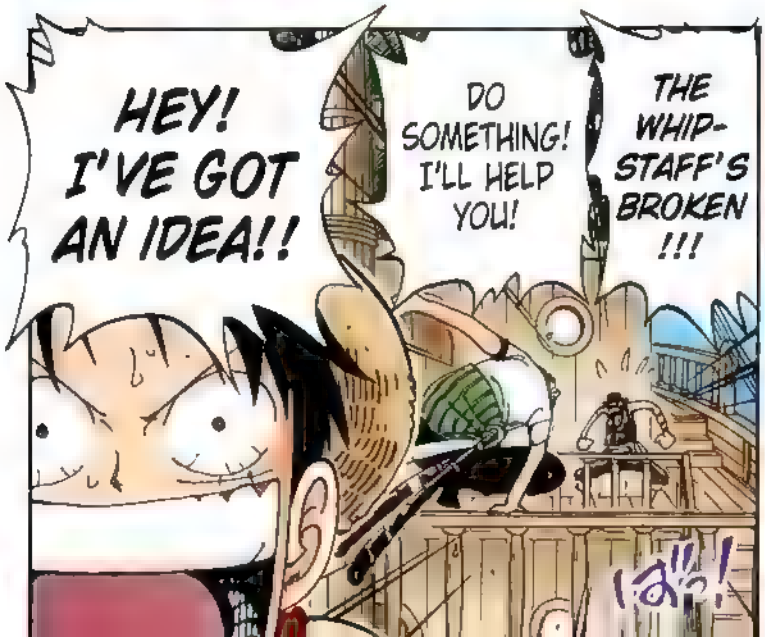
IT'S NO MOUN-TAIN!

IT'S A WHALE!

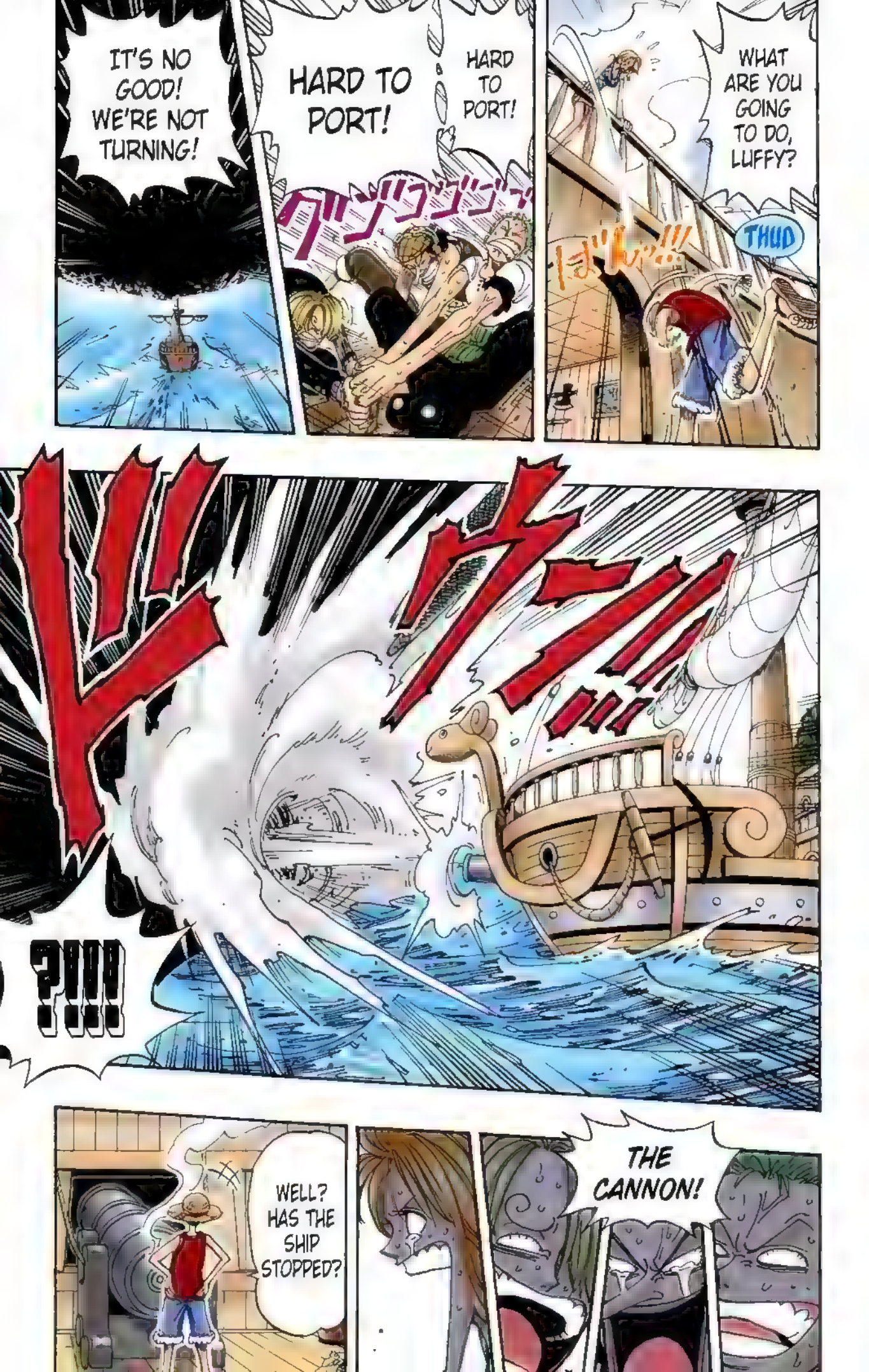

WHAT'LL WE DO?
SHOULD WE FIGHT IT?
ARE YOU NUTS?! WE CAN'T FIGHT A MONSTER LIKE THAT!
BUT IT'S BLOCK-ING OUR WAY!

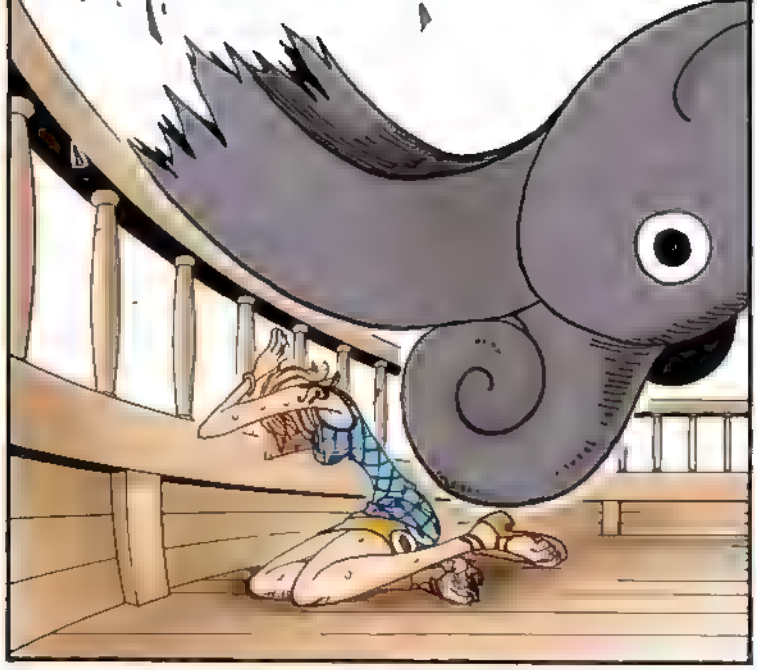

OH!
THEN IT MAY NOT BE AWARE OF US YET.


UP CLOSE LIKE THIS, ITS A WALL!
WHERE ARE THE EYES?


HEY! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!!
DO SOMETHING! I'LL HELP YOU!
THE WHIP-STAFF'S BROKEN !!!

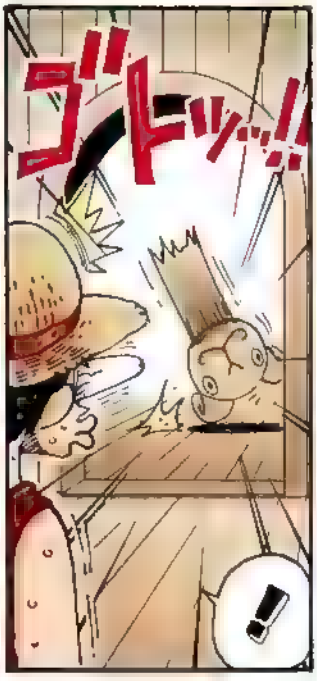
BUT WE'RE HEADED RIGHT FOR IT!
HARD TO PORT!
THERE'S AN OPENING TO THE LEFT!

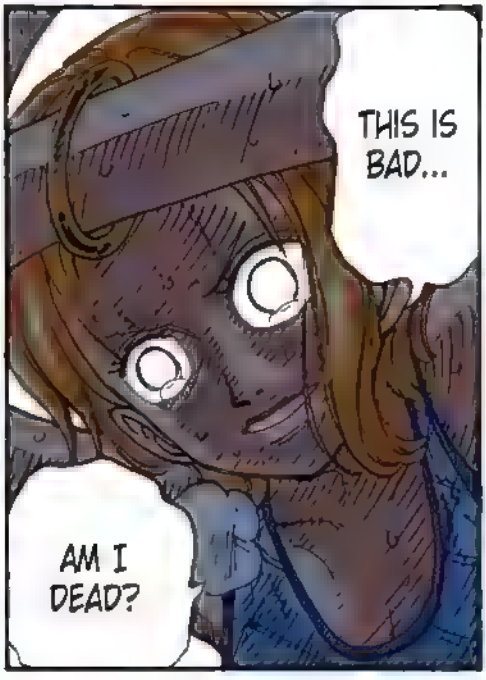

IT'S NO GOOD! WE'RE NOT TURNING!
HARD TO PORT!
HARD TO PORT!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, LUFFY?
THUD
?!!!
WELL? HAS THE SHIP STOPPED?
THE CANNON!



KRAK...

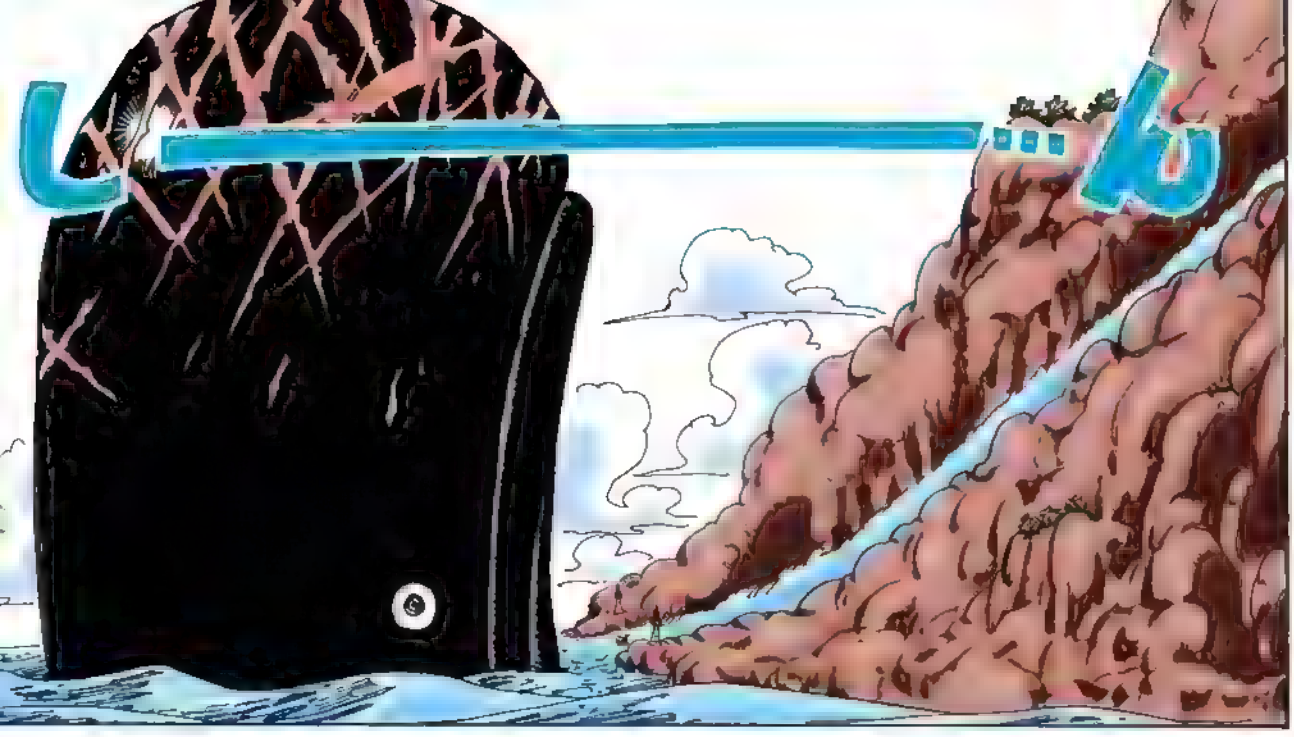
MY SPECIAL SEAT!
?!!!
ガガァ!!

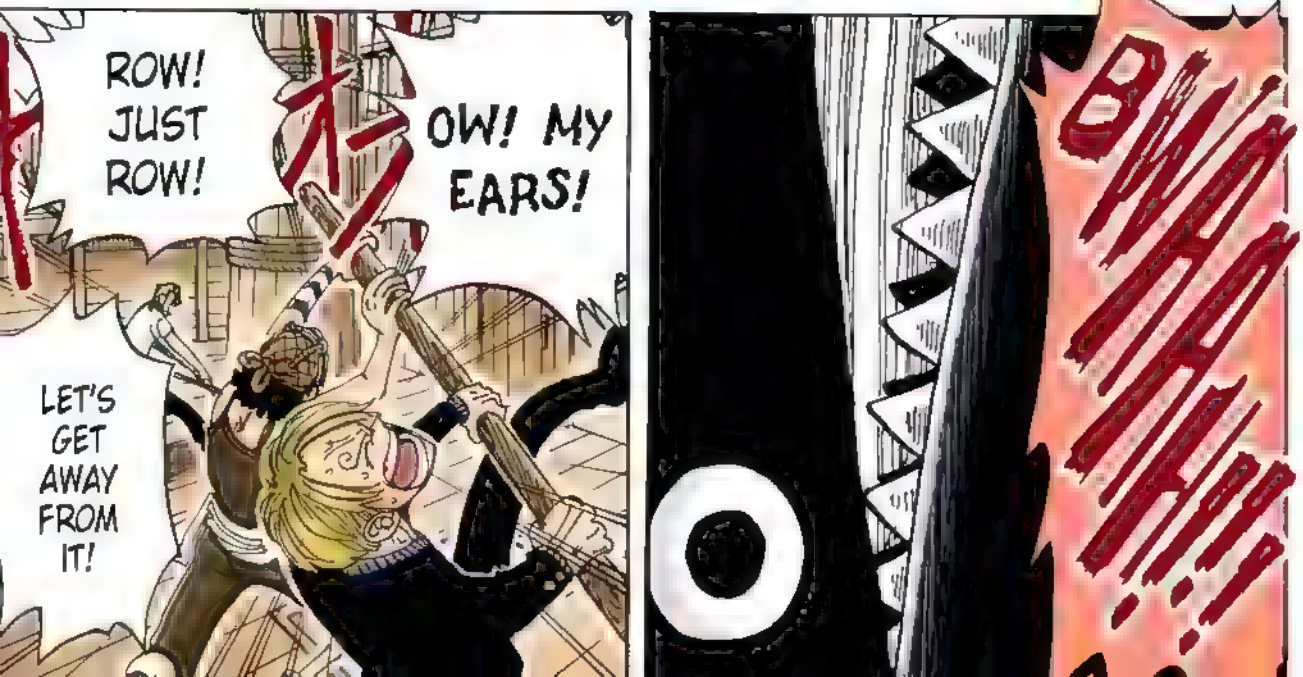

ゴトッ..!!
!

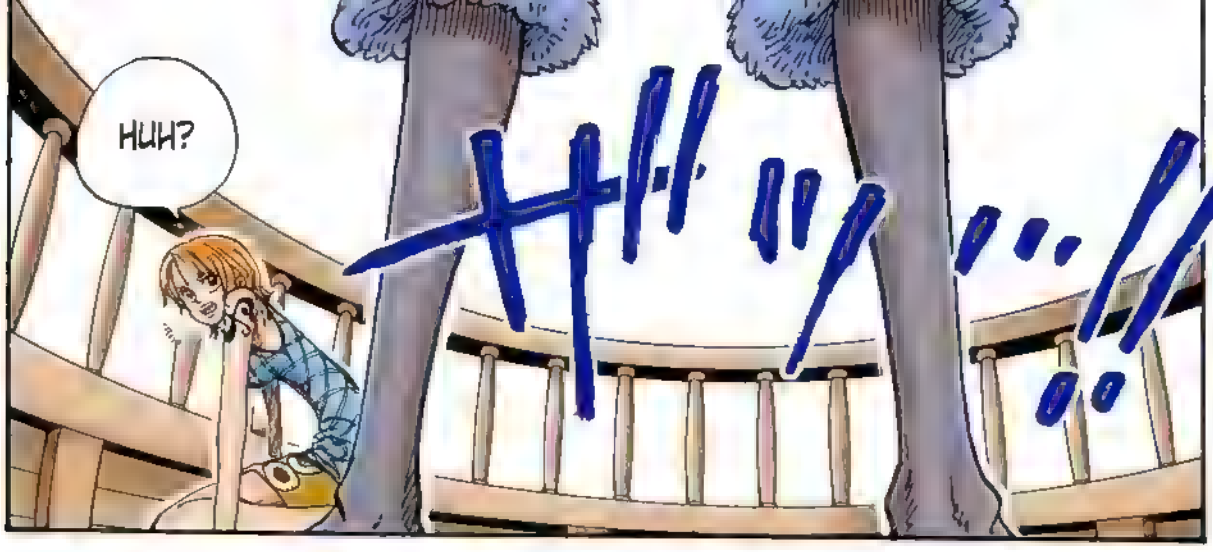

THIS IS BAD...
AM I DEAD?

...!!
ゴクリ…

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

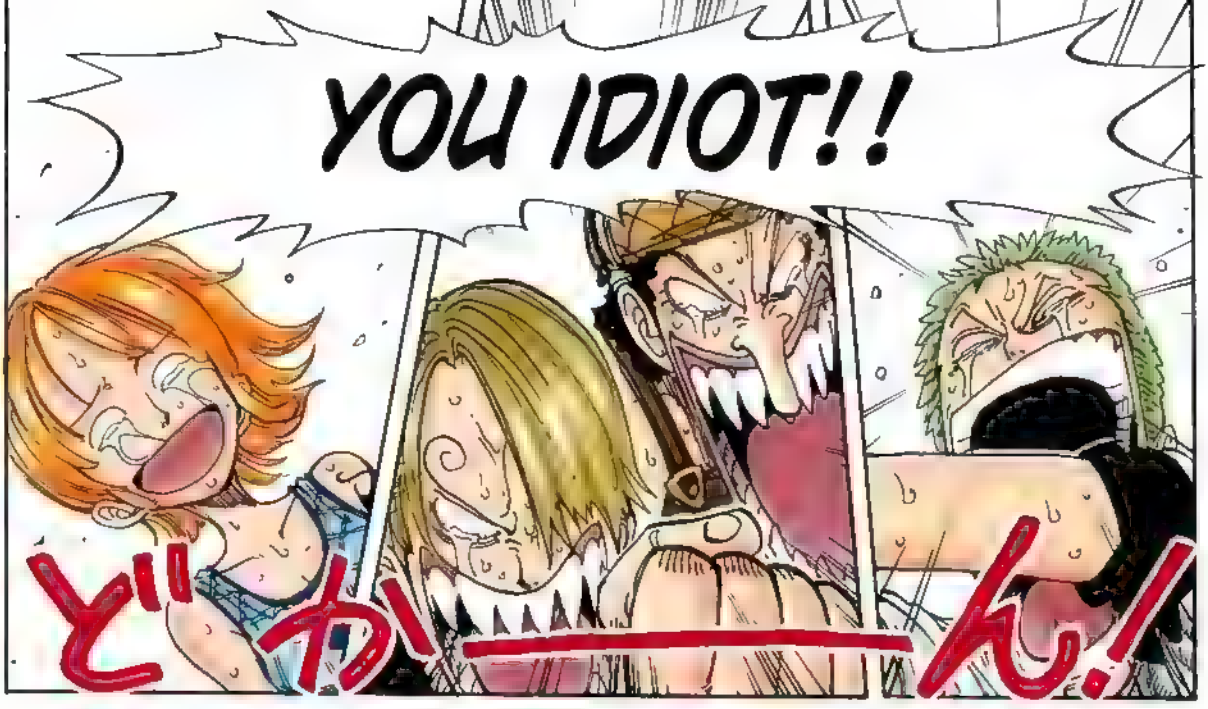



ROW! JUST ROW!
OW! MY EARS!
LET'S GET AWAY FROM IT!
BWOOO


HUH?

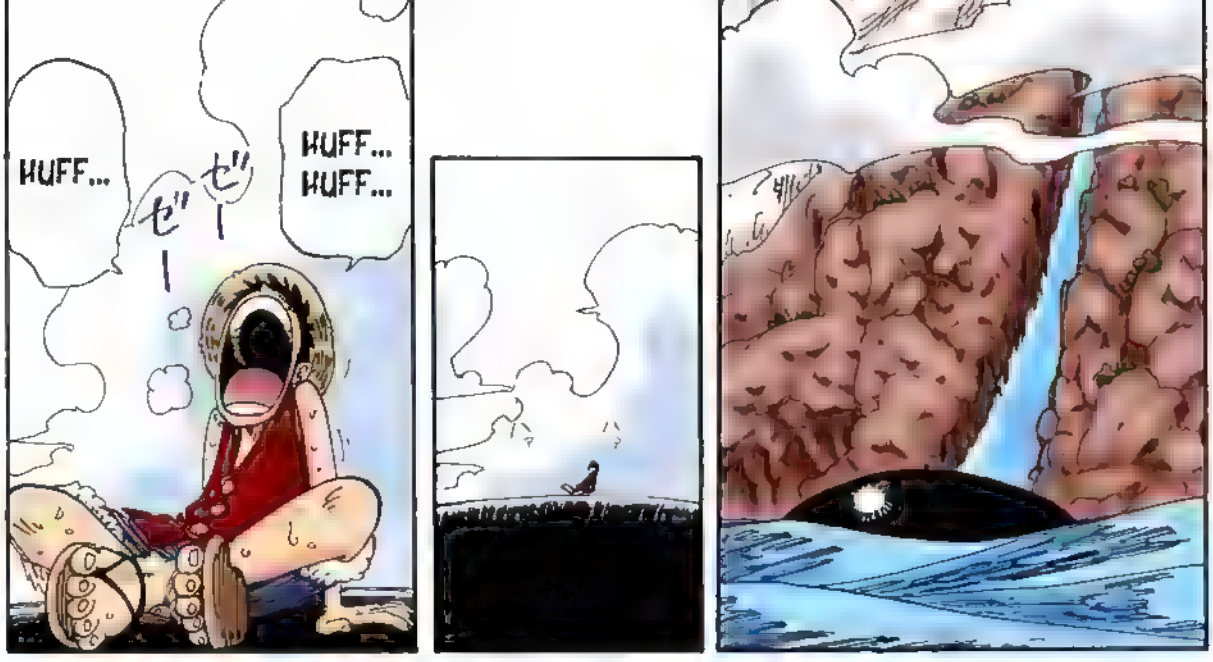
THAT WAS MY SPECIAL SEAT!
LISTEN, YOU!

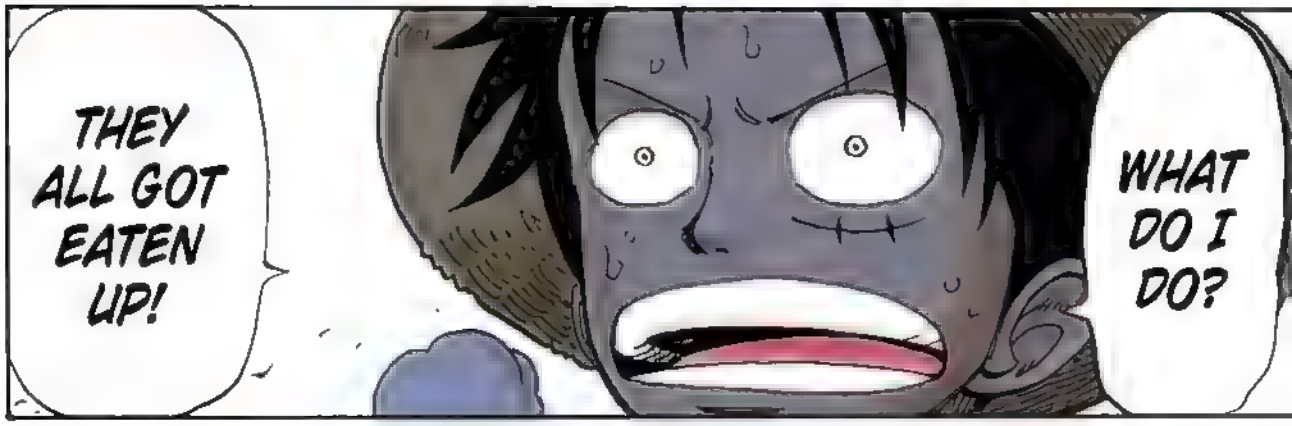
WHAT DID YOU DO TO IT?!


YOU IDIOT!!
どあほーーー

AAAH !!!
AAAAAH!!
LUFFY !!!

GWAAAH!!
AAAAAH!!
I'M NOT GONNA DIE!
AGH! I'M GONNA FALL IN!
IMP!
IMP!

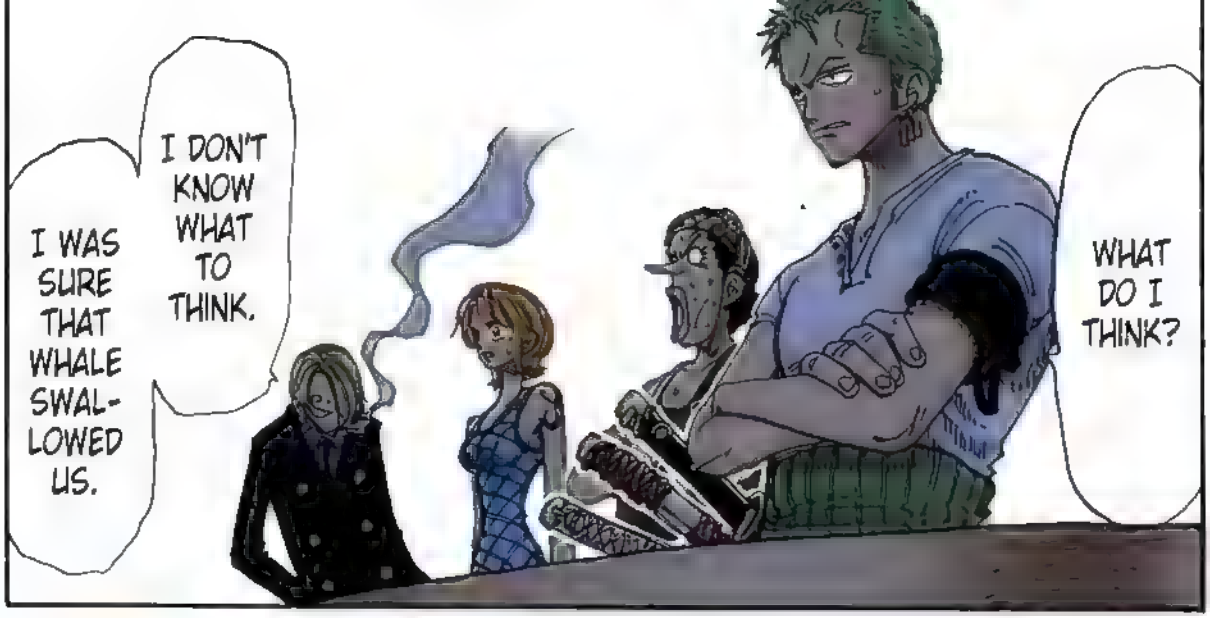

HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
セ"
セ"


THEY ALL GOT EATEN UP!
WHAT DO I DO?

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
!

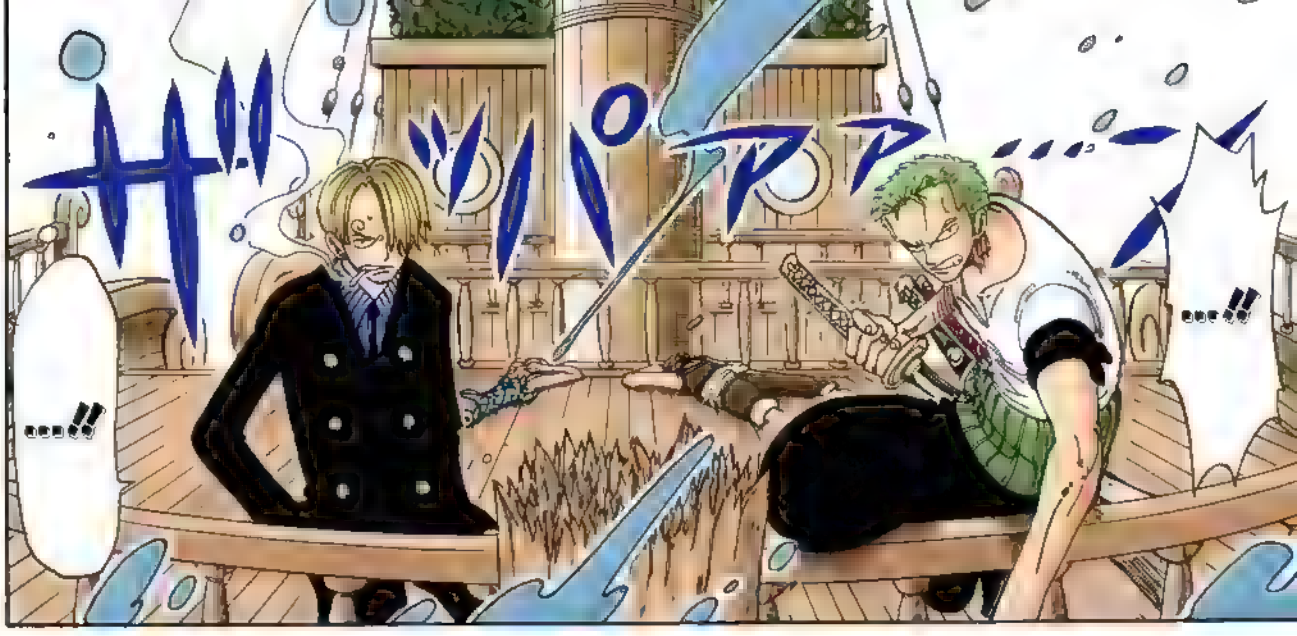
GIVE ME BACK MY FRIENDS!
HEY, YOU! SPIT 'EM OUT!
SPIT 'EM OUT!
ドカ!!
ドカ!!!

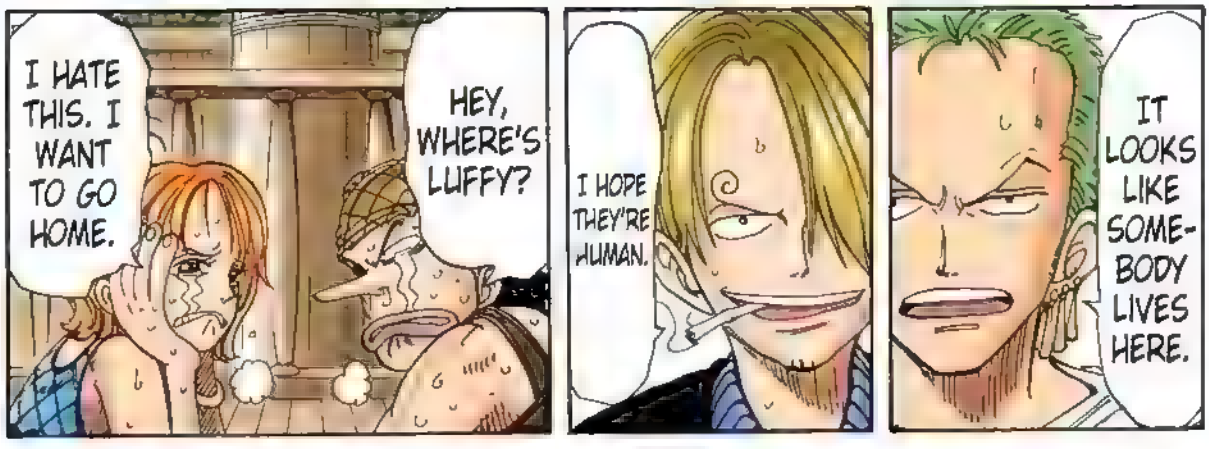
WE'RE ALL GOING ON AN ADVENTURE! I NEED THEM!
JUST A DAMN MINUTE! GIVE ME BACK MY FRIENDS!
ドドドド
UH-OH! IT'S GONNA DIVE!
HEY! STOP!
HUH?
!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

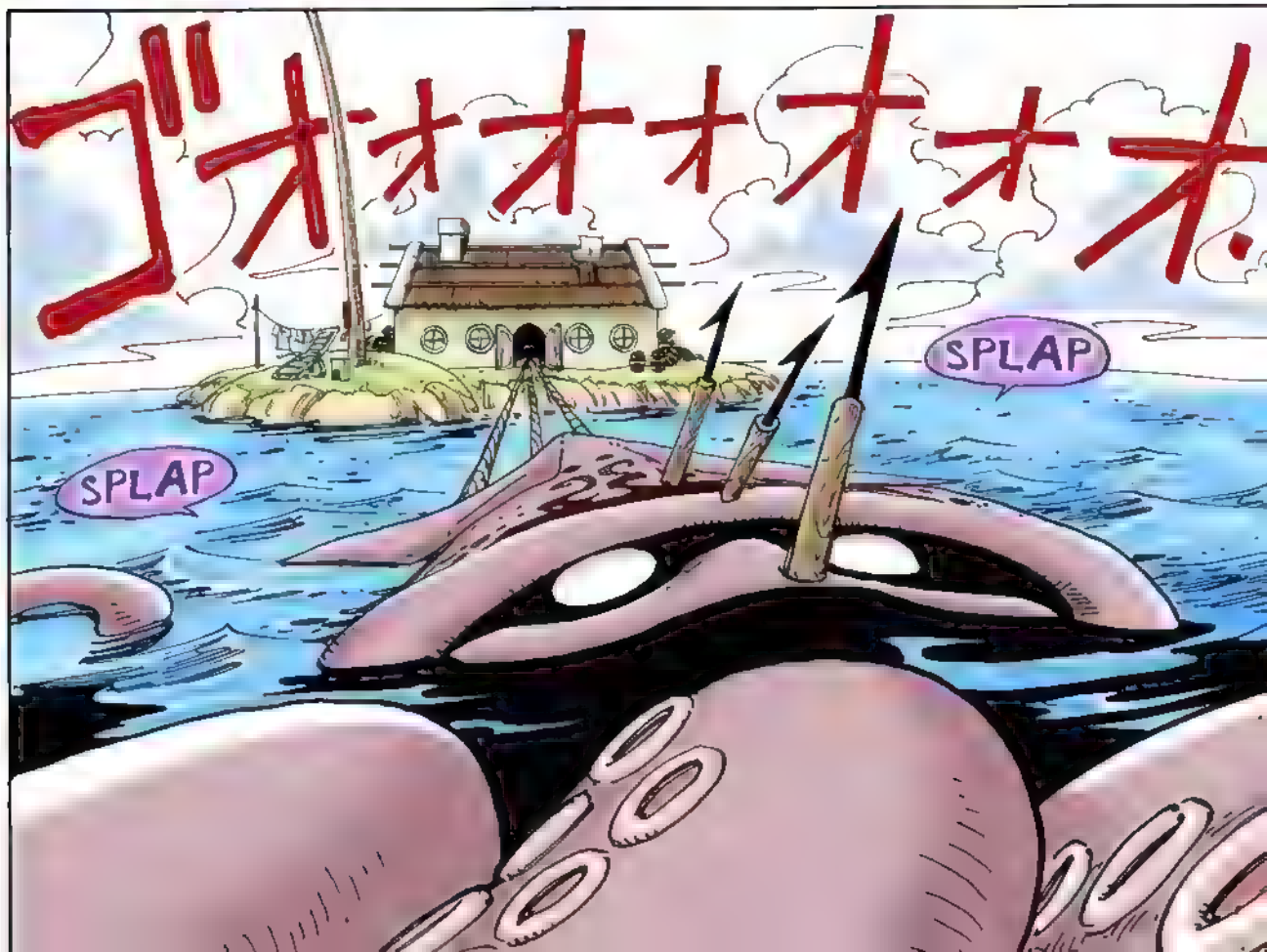

I WAS SURE THAT WHALE SWAL-LOWED US.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK.
WHAT DO I THINK?

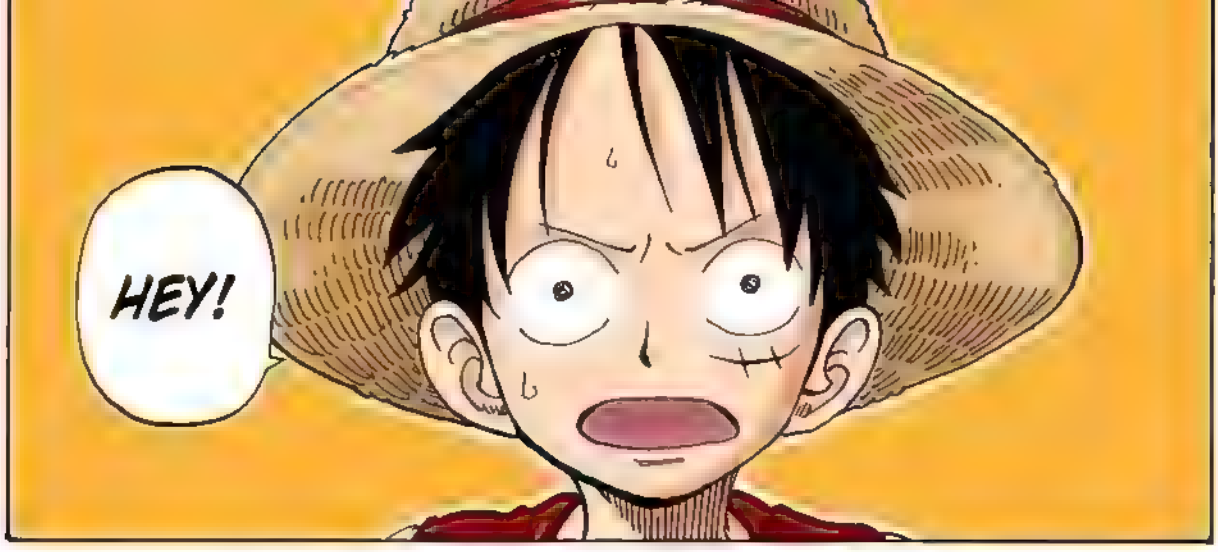
IS THIS A DREAM?!
YEAH. IT'S GOT TO BE A DREAM...

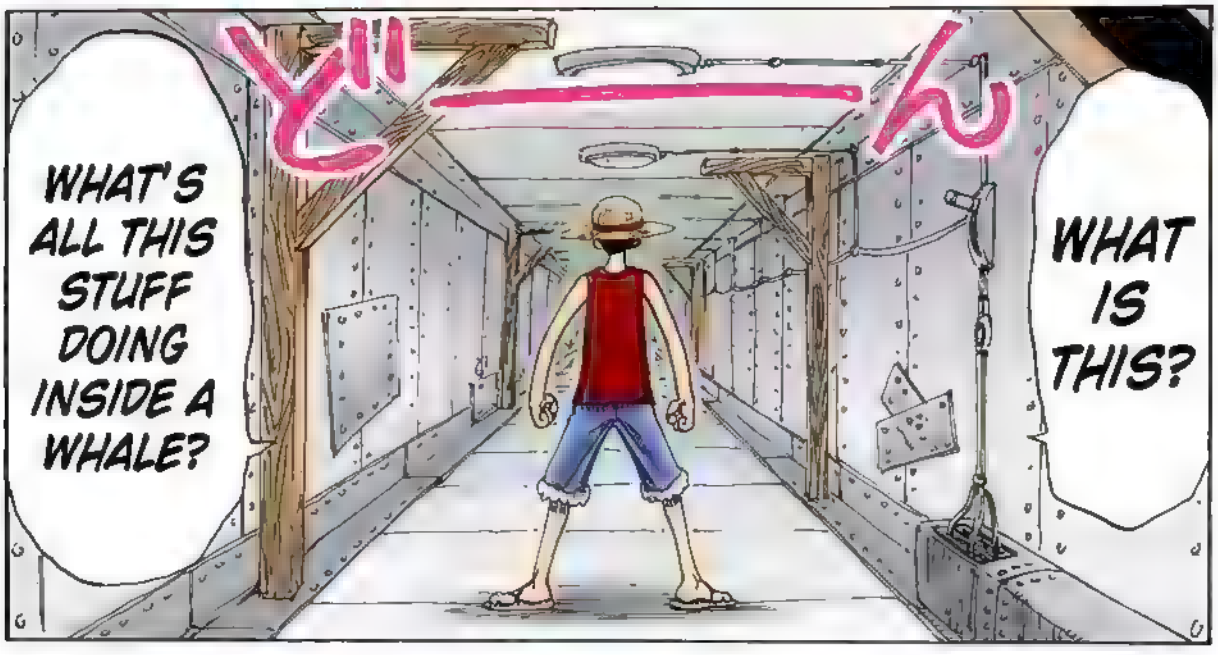
PROB-
ABLY A
HALLUCI-
NATION.
WHAT
ABOUT THAT
HOUSE ON
THE
ISLAND?
BUT...
A ROYAL
SQUID!
ふわっ!!
ざ
ばっ
...
WHAT'S
THAT?
ドドドドド
?!!!


...!!
...!!

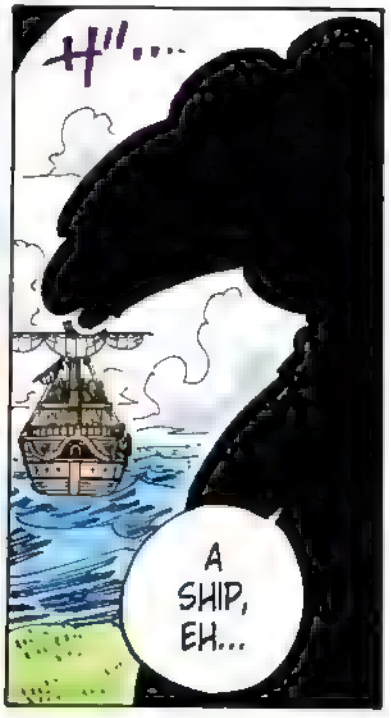

I HATE THIS. I WANT TO GO HOME.
HEY, WHERE'S LUFFY?
I HOPE THEY'RE HUMAN.
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME-BODY LIVES HERE.


SPLAP
SPLAP


HEY!

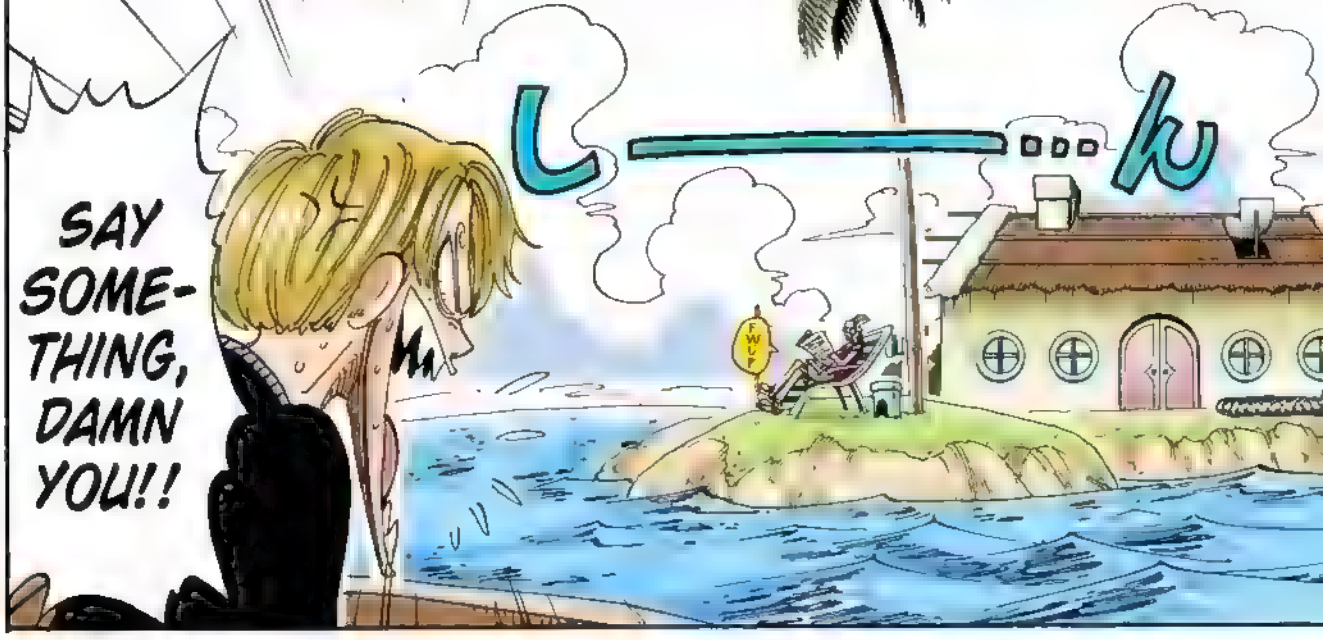

WHAT'S ALL THIS STUFF DOING INSIDE A WHALE?
WHAT IS THIS?

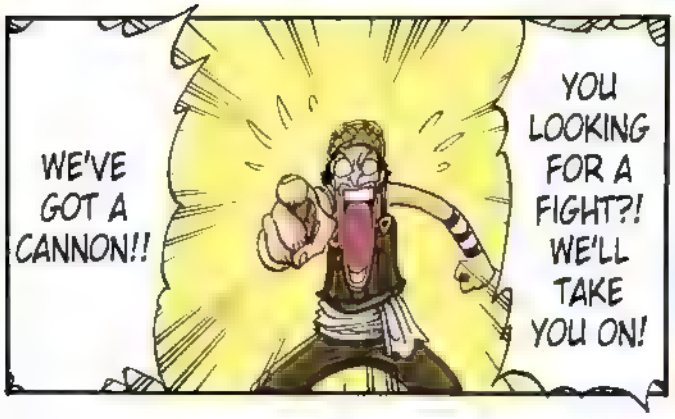
HOLD ON. SOMEONE'S COMING OUT!
SHOULD WE FIRE THE CANNON AT THE ISLAND?

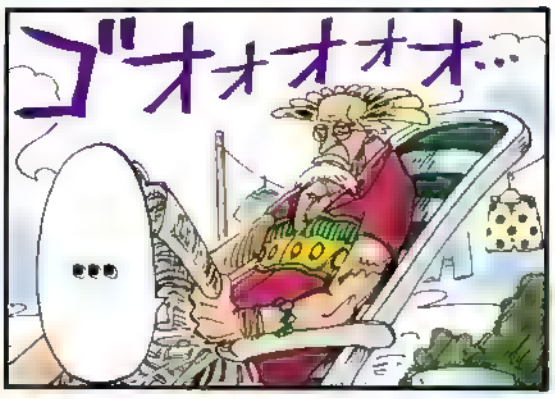

HM....
A SHIP, EH...

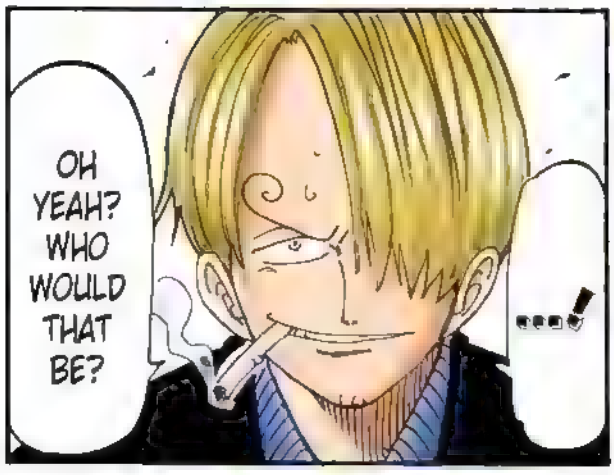
Chapter 103:
THE WHALE

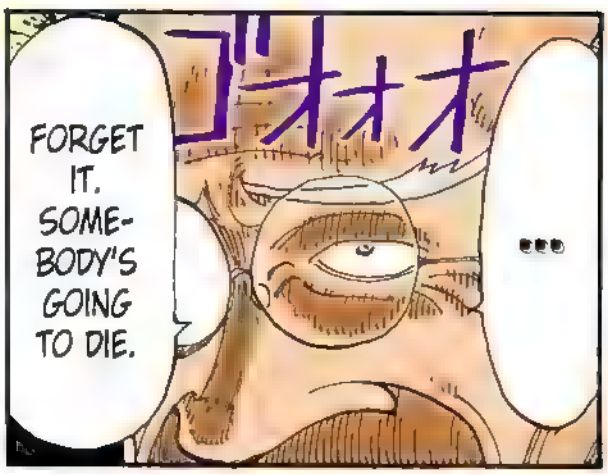
ゾ――ル!!
A FLOWER ?!
IT'S A FLOWER !!!
A MAN?
NO, IT'S A MAN.
DID HE MEAN TO SAVE US OR WAS HE JUST FISHING?
HE GOT THAT ROYAL SQUID LIKE IT WAS NOTHING!
SWIP
SWIP
ゴク…!
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
ゾーール!!

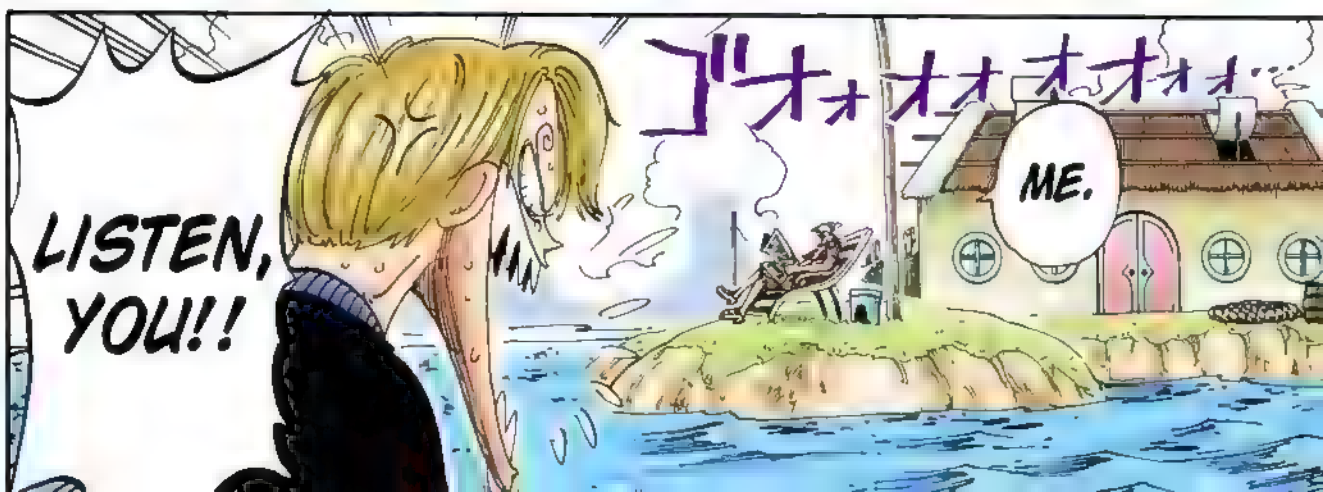

SAY SOME-THING, DAMN YOU!!
し——————ん
FWUP


WE'VE GOT A CANNON!!
YOU LOOKING FOR A FIGHT?! WE'LL TAKE YOU ON!

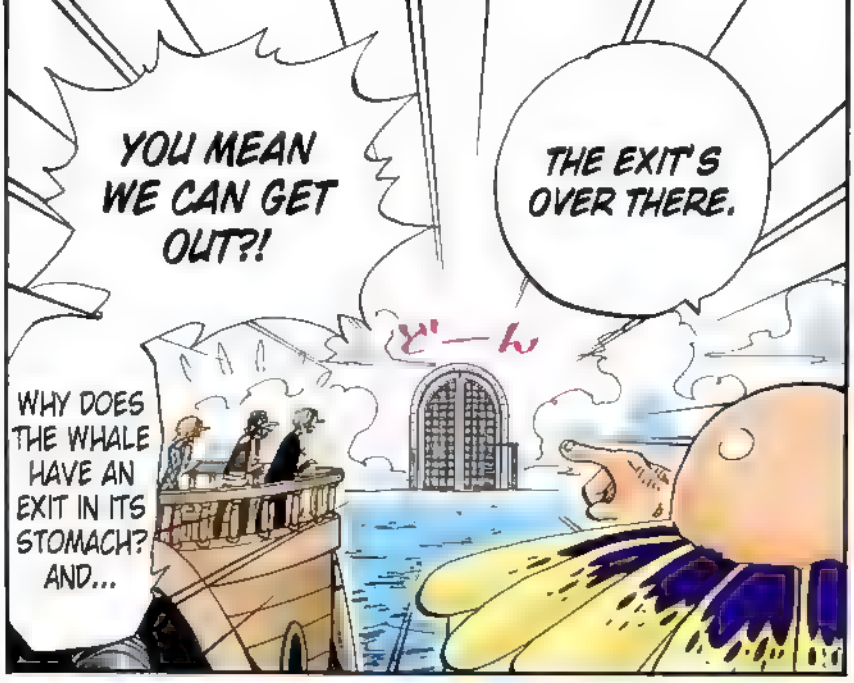

ゴォォォォ…
…


OH YEAH? WHO WOULD THAT BE?
…!

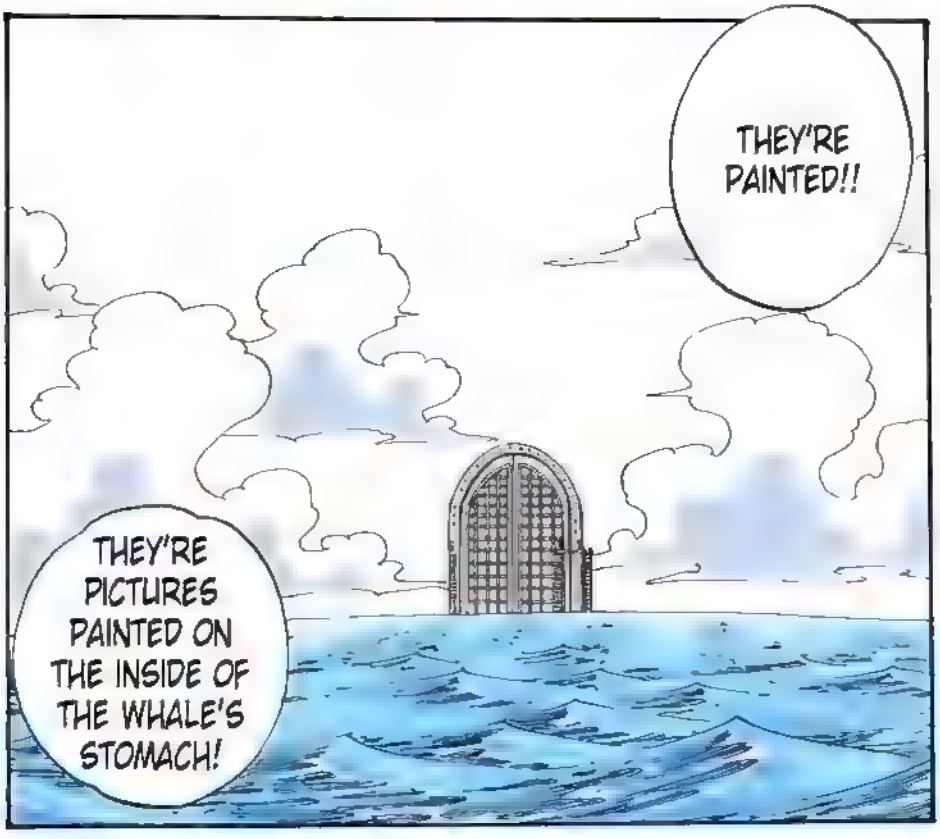

ゴォォォ
FORGET IT. SOME-BODY'S GOING TO DIE.
…

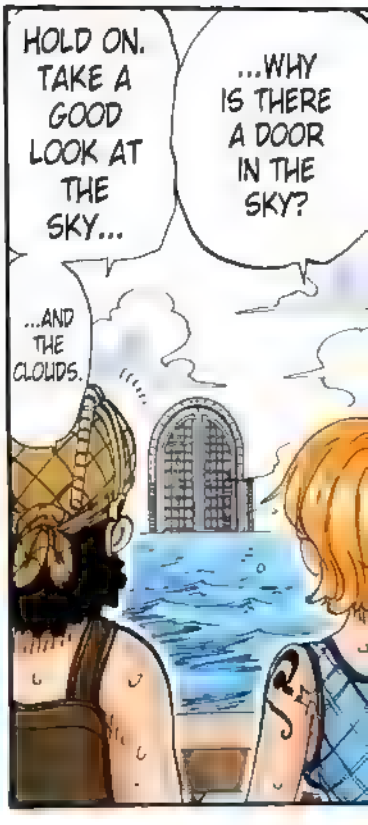

LISTEN, YOU!!
ゴォォォォォォォ…
ME.

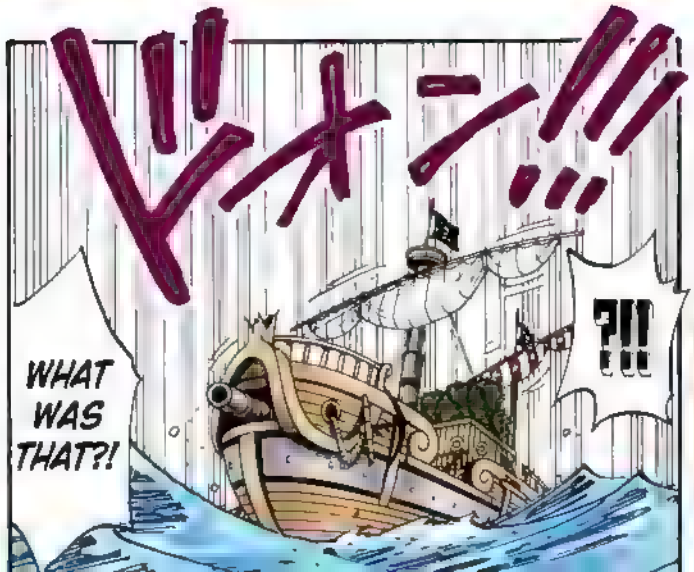
ISN'T IT PROPER ETIQUETTE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF BEFORE YOU START ASKING PEOPLE QUESTIONS?
...
AND WHERE THE HECK ARE WE?
WHO ARE YOU, MISTER?
NOW DON'T GET ALL STEAMED UP.
HE THINKS HE CAN MAKE A FOOL OF ME.
CALM DOWN!
I'M GONNA CHOP HIM UP!!
I'M THE KEEPER OF THE TWIN CAPES LIGHTHOUSE. I'M 71, A GEMINI, AND MY BLOOD TYPE IS AB.
MY NAME IS CROCUS.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
...AND ORDER ME AROUND LIKE A BUNCH OF BIG SHOTS! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, IN THE BELLY OF A MOUSE?!
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE THIS IS? HOW DARE YOU INVADE MY PERSONAL RESORT...

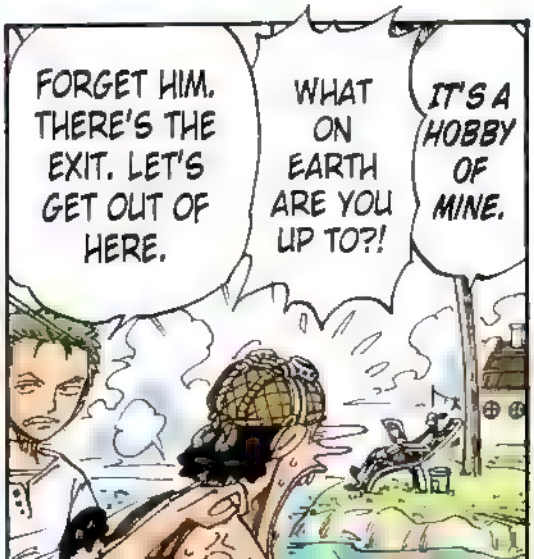

YOU MEAN WE CAN GET OUT?!
THE EXIT'S OVER THERE.
WHY DOES THE WHALE HAVE AN EXIT IN ITS STOMACH? AND...

WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO US?
THEN... THAT WHALE REALLY DID SWALLOW US.
I DON'T WANT TO BE DIGES-TED.


THEY'RE PAINTED!!
THEY'RE PICTURES PAINTED ON THE INSIDE OF THE WHALE'S STOMACH!


HOLD ON. TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE SKY...
...WHY IS THERE A DOOR IN THE SKY?
...AND THE CLOUDS.

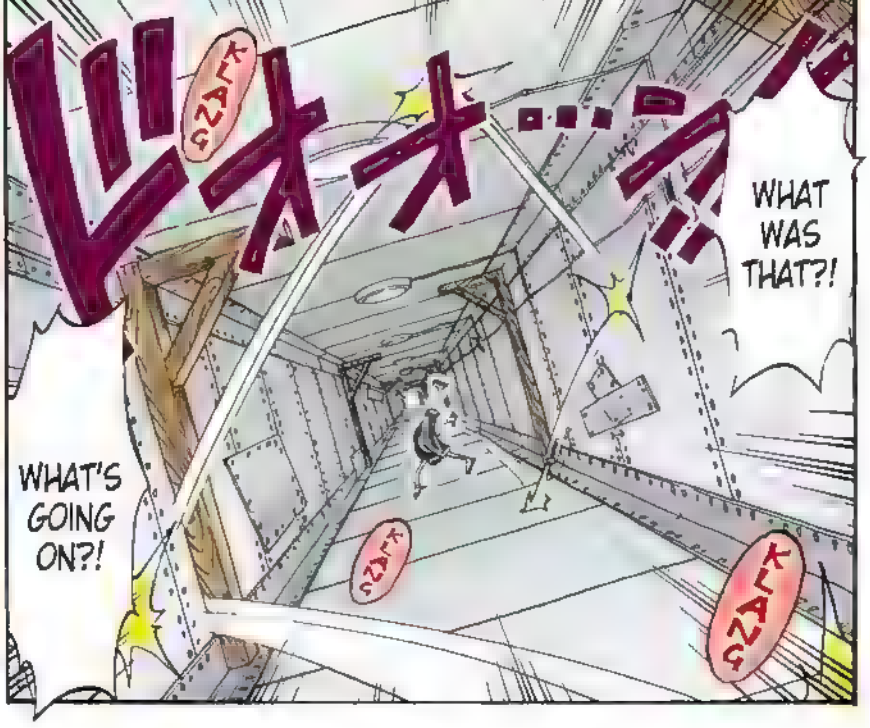

WHAT WAS THAT?!
?!!

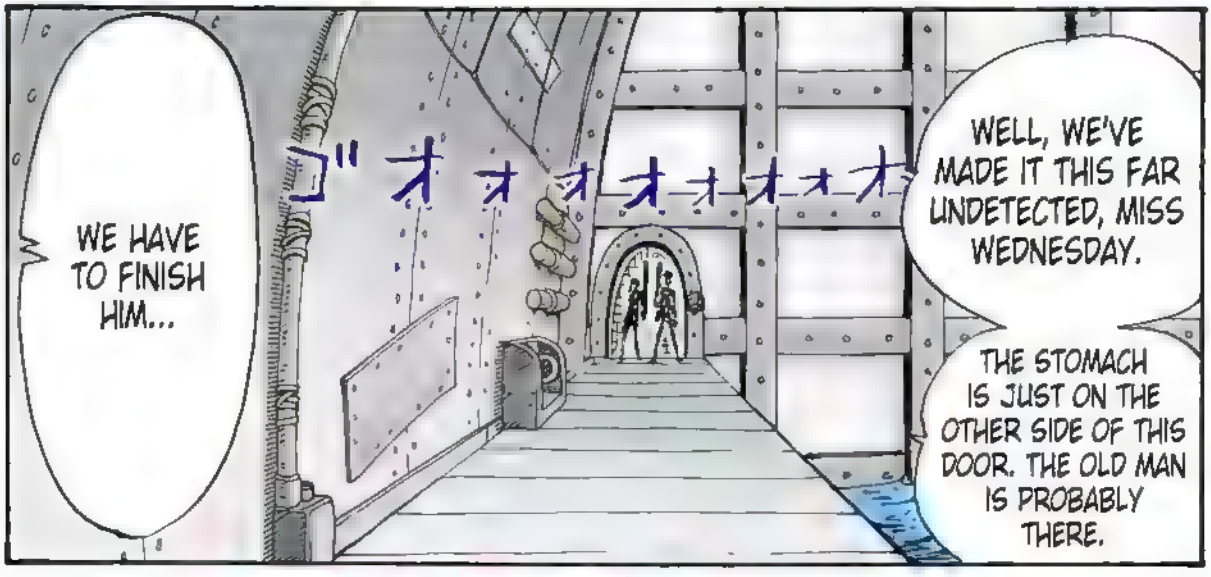

FORGET HIM. THERE'S THE EXIT. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU UP TO?!
IT'S A HOBBY OF MINE.

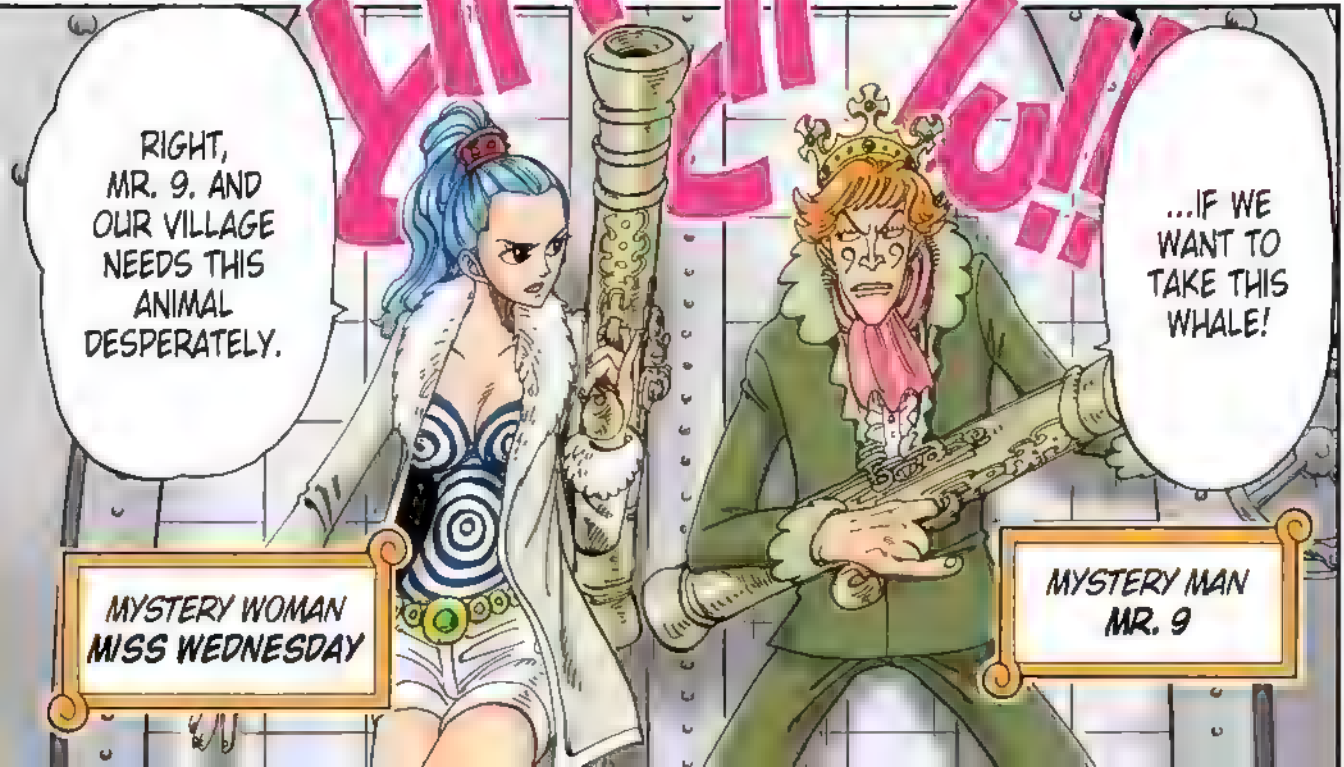
THEN THIS ISN'T WATER, IT'S STOMACH ACID! IF WE STAY TOO LONG, OUR SHIP'LL DISSOLVE!
LOOK! IT'S NOT AN ISLAND! IT'S A SHIP! AND IT'S MADE OF METAL!
THERE WHO GOES, OLD MAN?! WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!!
THERE HE GOES.
WHAT?!
...IS RAMMING THE RED LINE WITH HIS HEAD!!
THIS WHALE...
THIS WHALE IS SUFFERING!
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ブオオオオ..
OH YEAH, I SAW THOSE TERRIBLE SCARS!
AND THERE WAS SOMETHING MOURNFUL ABOUT ITS CRIES!

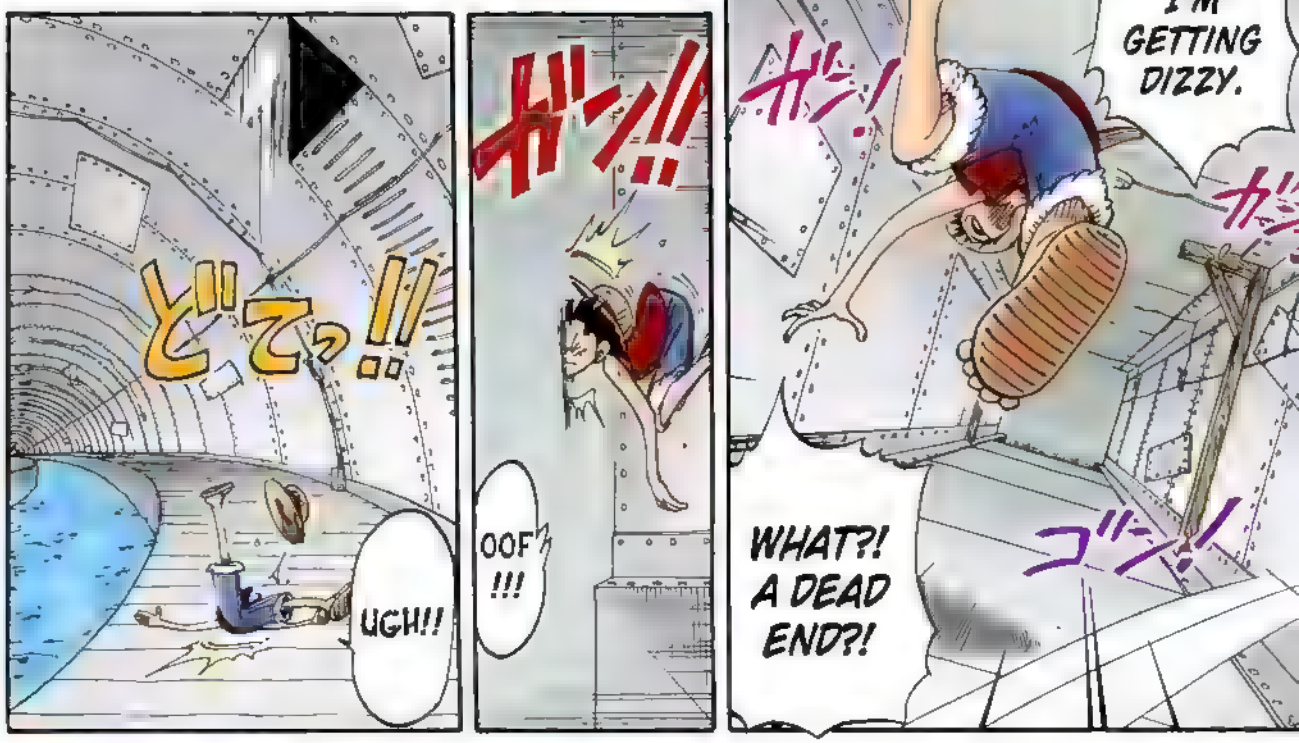
ドゴオン!!!
AHA! SO THAT'S WHAT THE OLD MAN'S UP TO!!
ドゴオオオ!!!
BWAH!!
ドゴオオオ…!!!
LET'S SEE...
WHAT A NASTY WAY TO DO HIM IN!
HE'S GOING TO KILL THE WHALE FROM THE INSIDE!
ドゴオン!!
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO START UP THE WHALING DEBATE, BUT I FEEL NO OBLIGATION TO SAVE THIS WHALE.
WE'LL LOSE OUR SHIP IF WE STAY TOO LONG.
ONCE WE KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS MYSTERY, WE'D BETTER GO.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

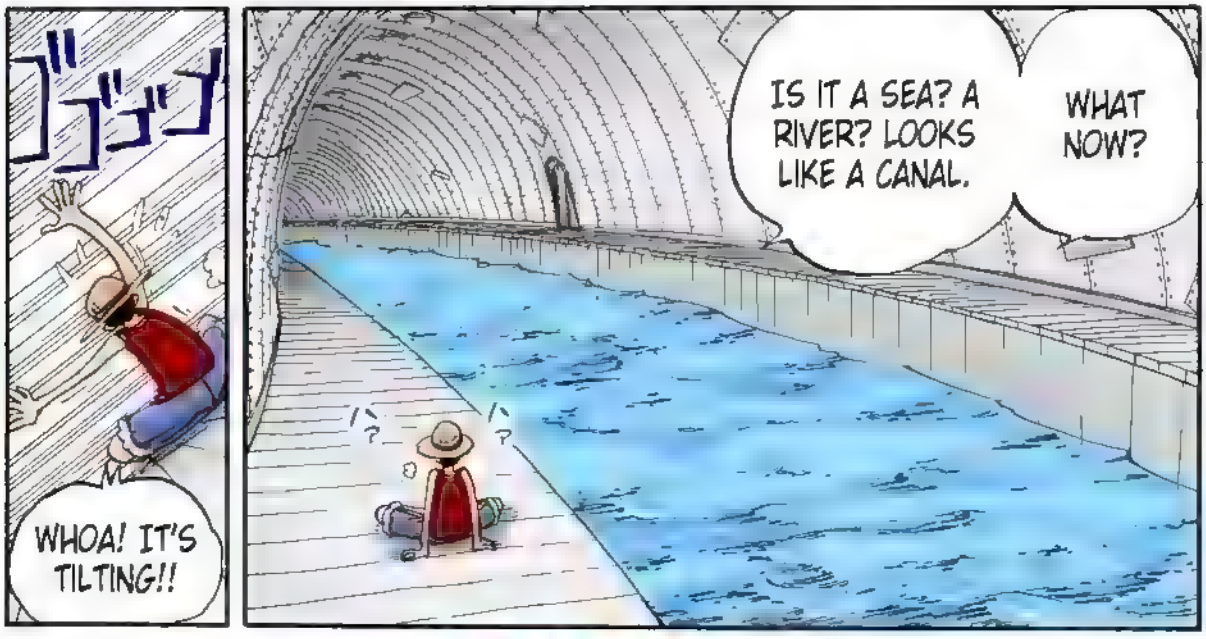
AAAAAH!!

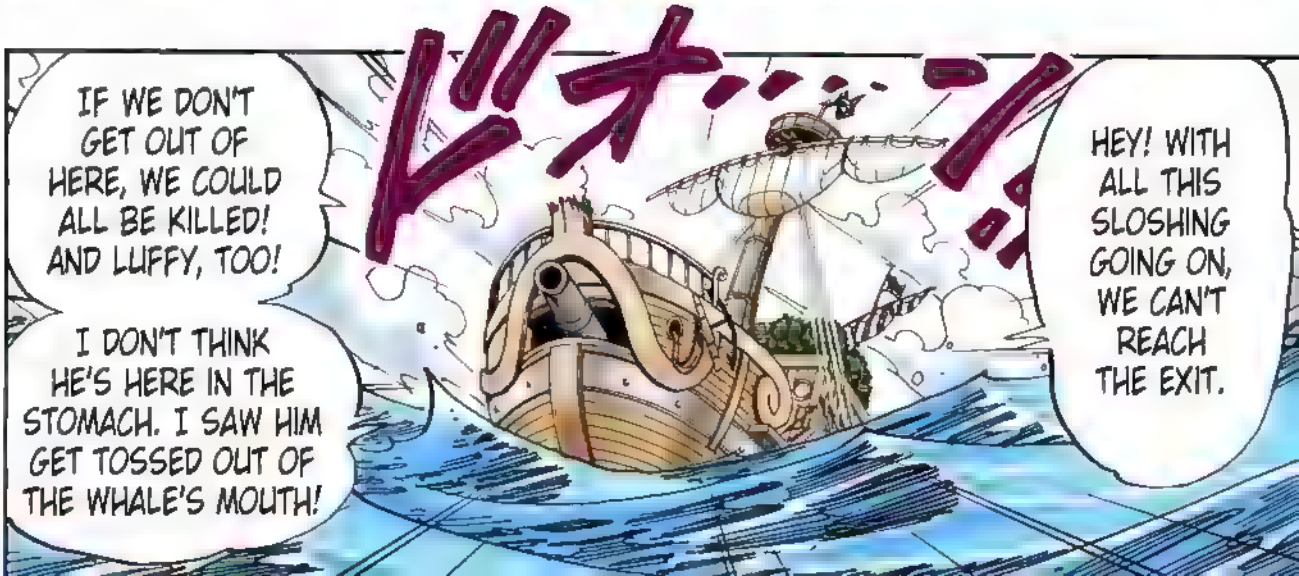

KLAK
レオーオ…!!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
KLAK
KLAK


WE HAVE TO FINISH HIM...
ゴオオオオオオオオ
WELL, WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR UNDETECTED, MISS WEDNESDAY.
THE STOMACH IS JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR. THE OLD MAN IS PROBABLY THERE.

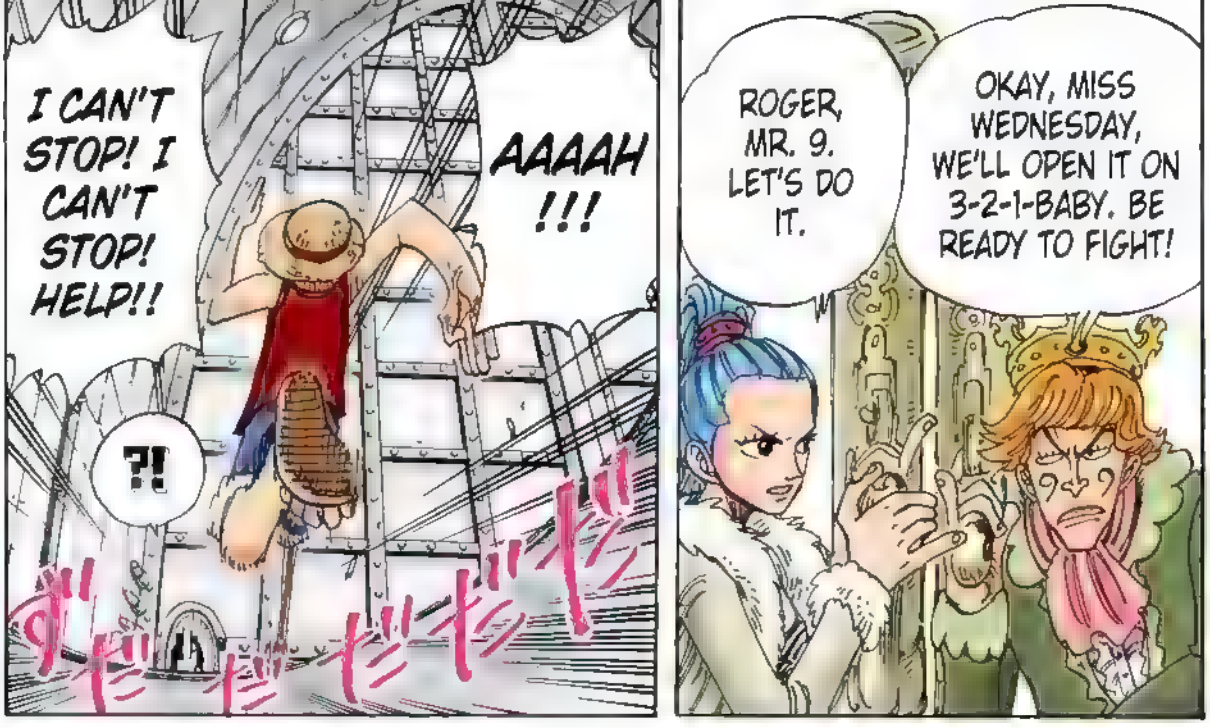

RIGHT, MR. 9. AND OUR VILLAGE NEEDS THIS ANIMAL DESPERATELY.
ヤ!!ヒ!!ロ!!
...IF WE WANT TO TAKE THIS WHALE!
MYSTERY WOMAN
MISS WEDNESDAY
MYSTERY MAN
MR. 9

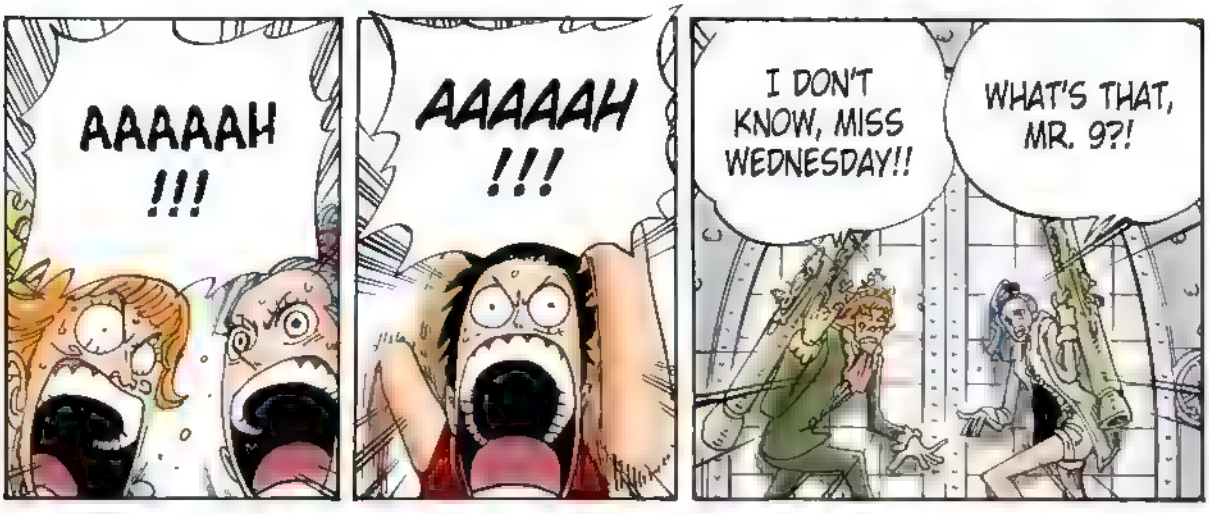

どてっ!!
UGH!!
ガン!!
OOF!!!
WHOA! I'M GETTING DIZZY.
WHAT?! A DEAD END?!

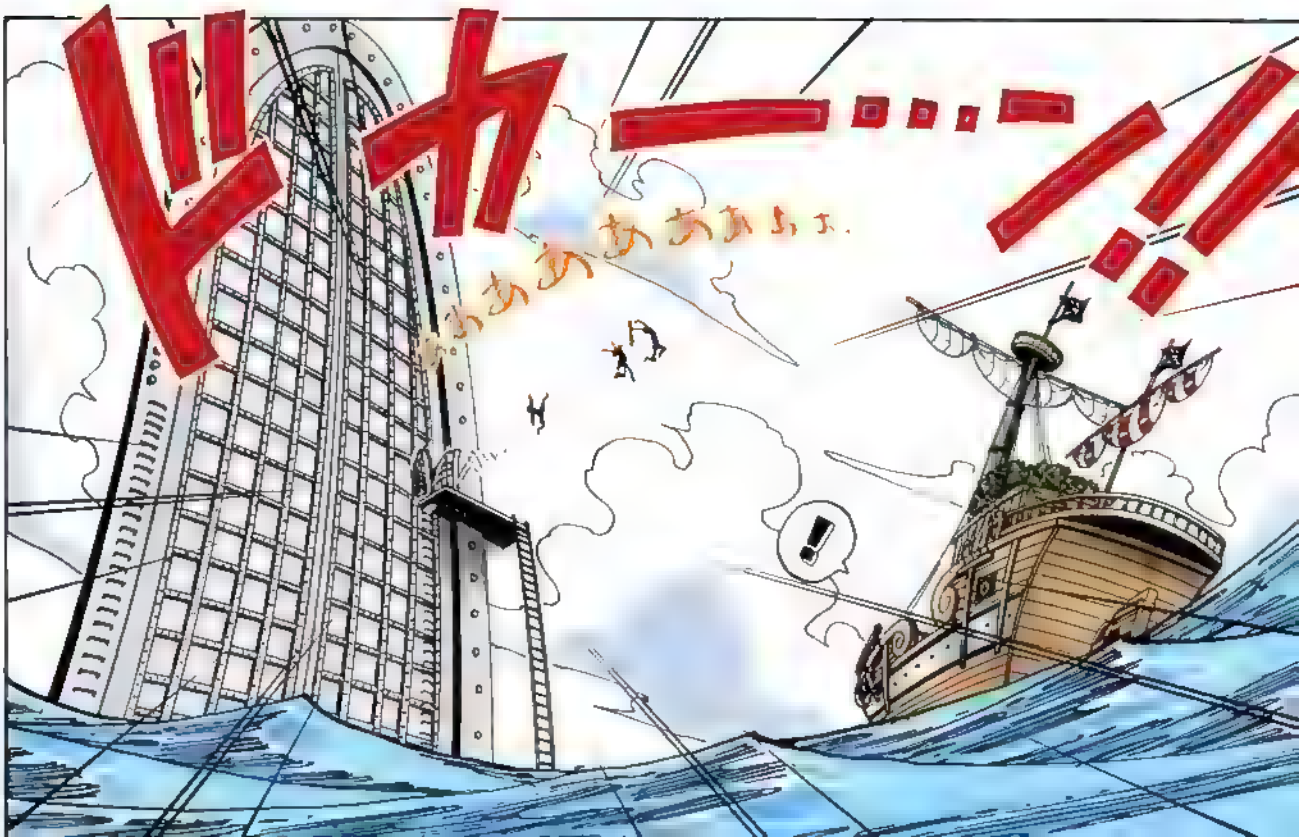

ゴゴゴゴ
WHOA! IT'S TILTING!!
IS IT A SEA? A RIVER? LOOKS LIKE A CANAL.
WHAT NOW?


IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF HERE, WE COULD ALL BE KILLED! AND LUFFY, TOO!
I DON'T THINK HE'S HERE IN THE STOMACH. I SAW HIM GET TOSSED OUT OF THE WHALE'S MOUTH!
ドバオ…!!
HEY! WITH ALL THIS SLOSHING GOING ON, WE CAN'T REACH THE EXIT.

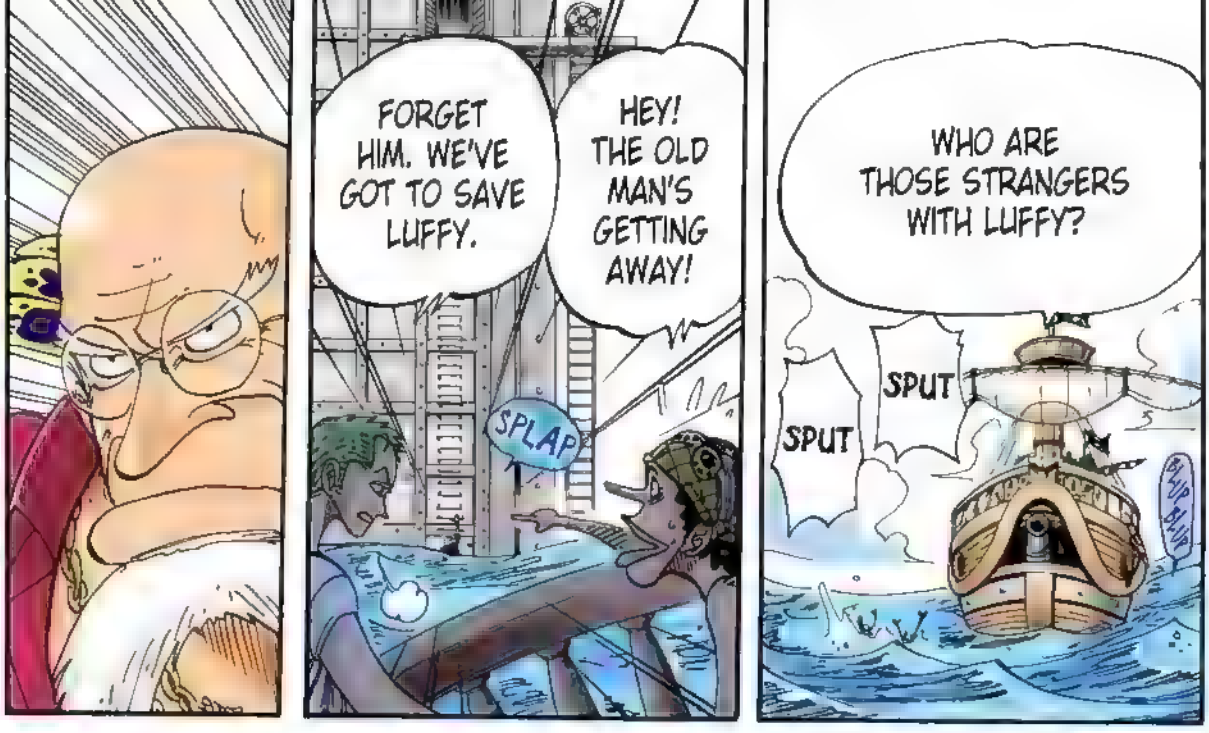
ゴボゴボ
WHAT'S HE DOING?!
HE'LL BE DISSOLVED!
ゴボ…!!
THE OLD MAN JUMPED IN!!
HEY!!
ザブン!
!
ゴボ
ゴボボ…!!
OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO ROW! C'MON!
ドオオ…!!
WHOA!
WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE, TOO, BEFORE THE WHALE GETS ANY CRAZIER.
HE'S HEADING FOR THE EXIT.

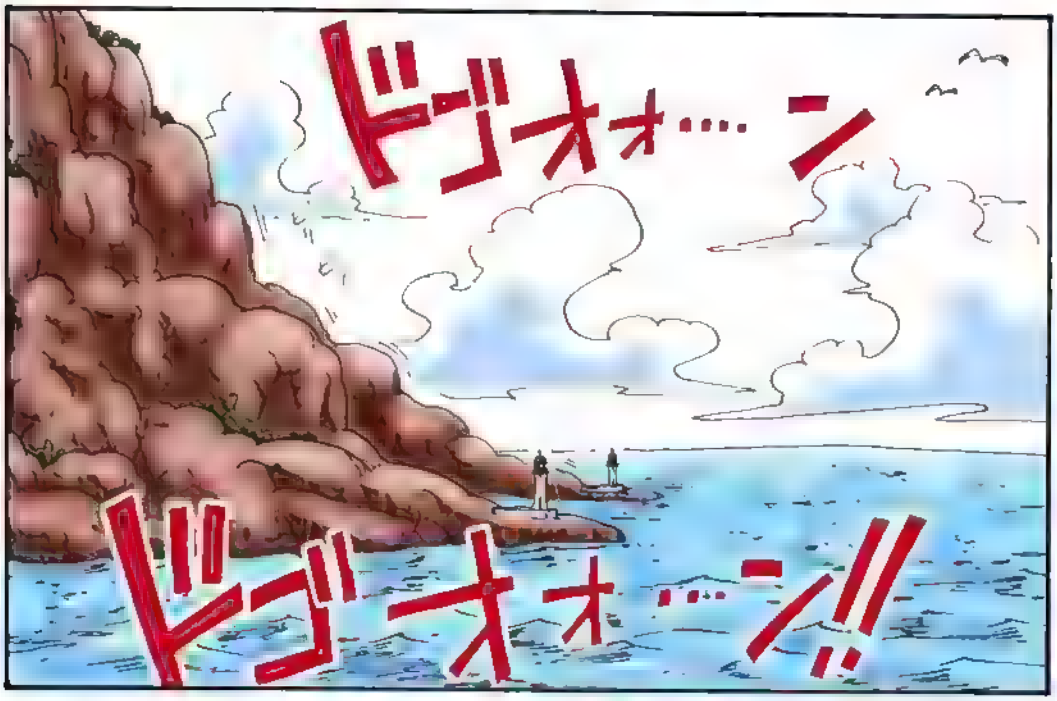

I CAN'T STOP! I CAN'T STOP! HELP!!
AAAAH !!!
?!
ROGER, MR. 9. LET'S DO IT.
OKAY, MISS WEDNESDAY, WE'LL OPEN IT ON 3-2-1-BABY. BE READY TO FIGHT!


AAAAAH !!!
AAAAAH !!!
I DON'T KNOW, MISS WEDNESDAY!!
WHAT'S THAT, MR. 9?!

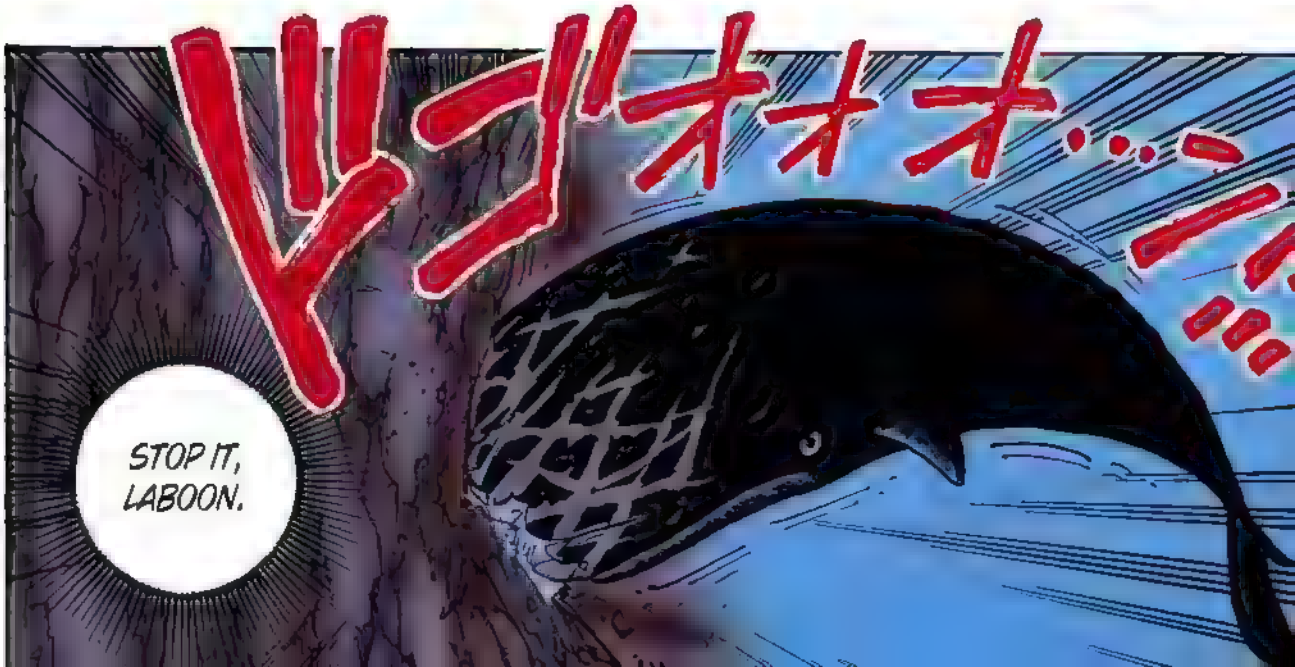

ドカーン!!!
!

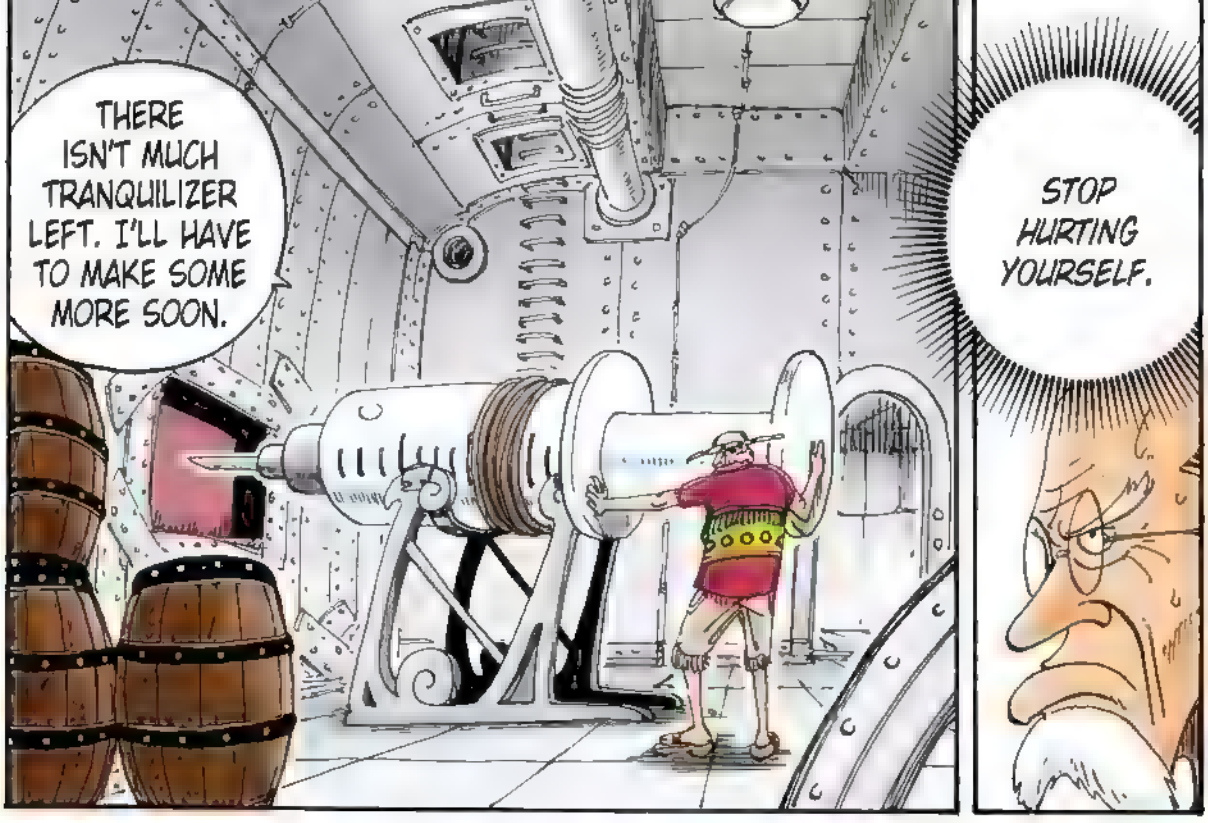
HEY! SO YOU'RE OKAY!
L-LUFFY?!
THEN SAVE ME!
NOOO !!!
THIS ISN'T GOOD, MISS WEDNESDAY. THAT'S A SEA OF STOMACH ACID UNDER US!
...?!
...!!!

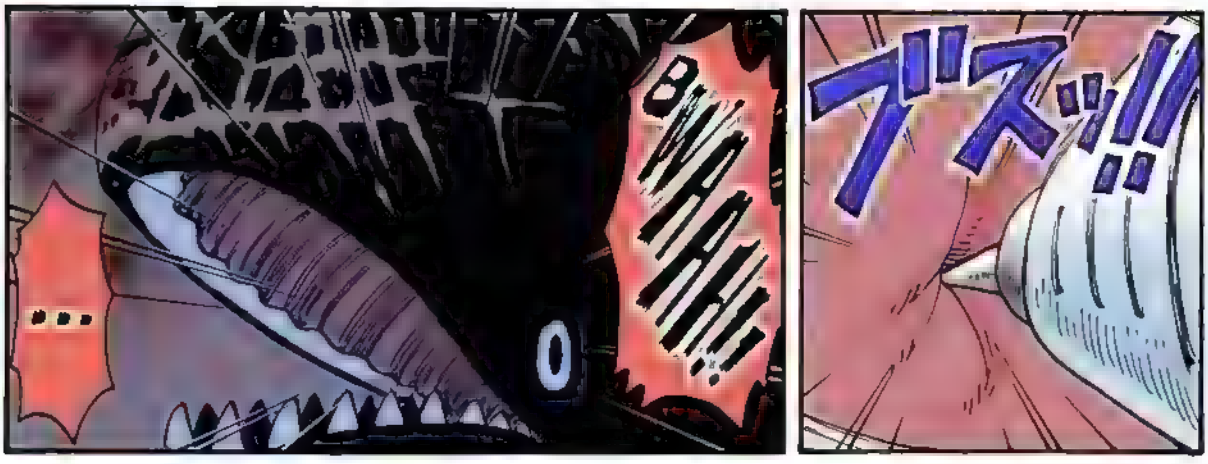

FORGET HIM. WE'VE GOT TO SAVE LUFFY.
HEY! THE OLD MAN'S GETTING AWAY!
SPLAP
WHO ARE THOSE STRANGERS WITH LUFFY?
SPUT
SPUT

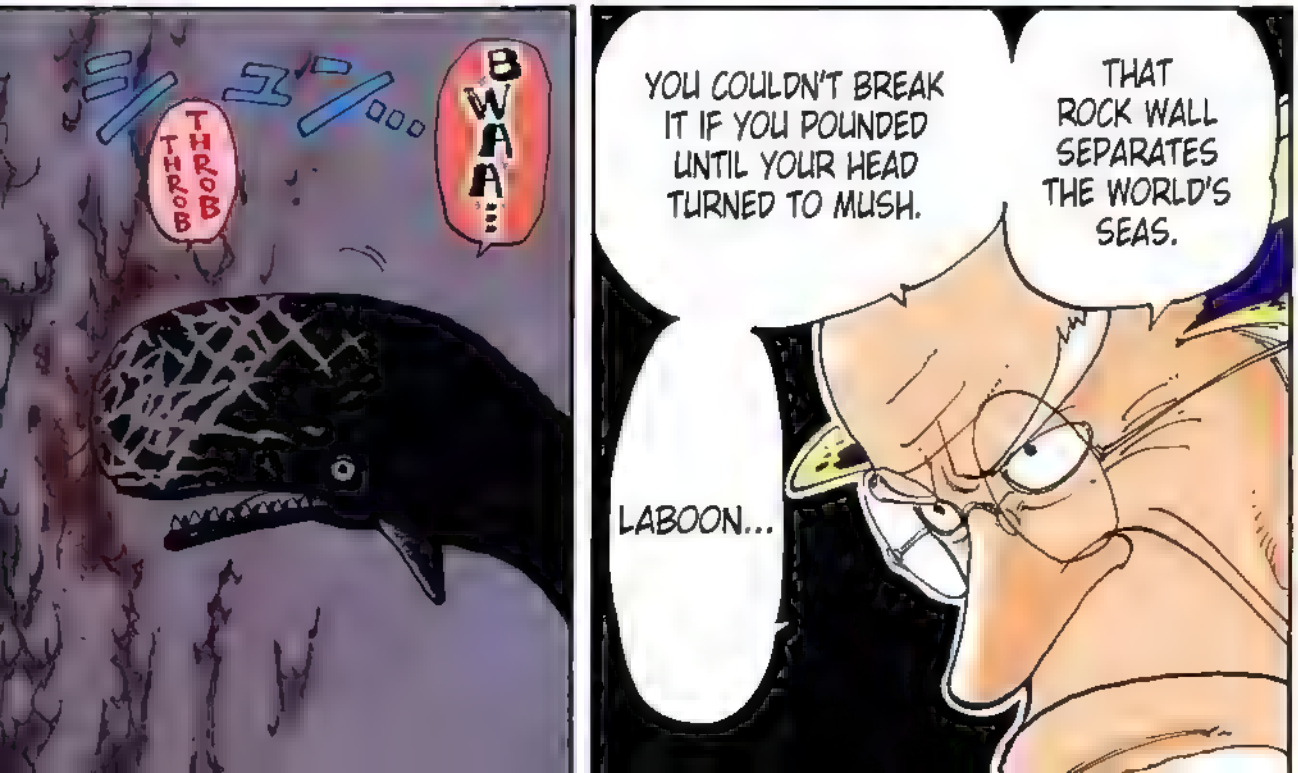

ドゴォォ…ン
ドゴォォ…ン!!

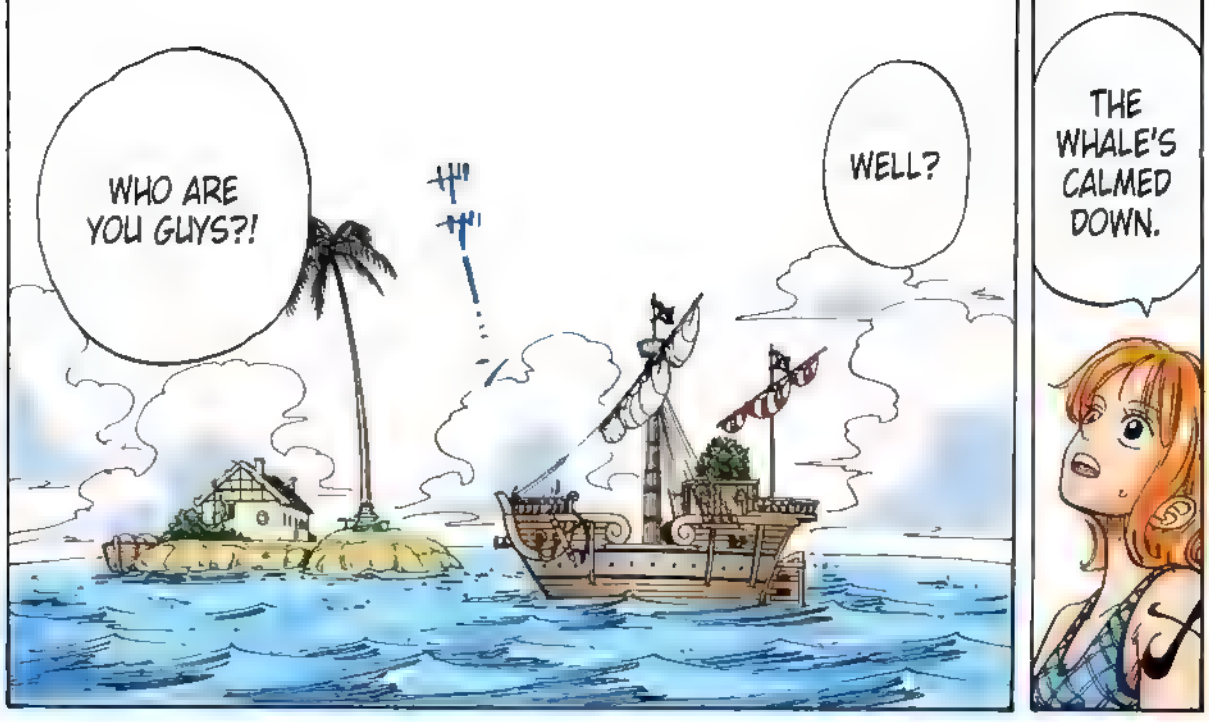
BIIIIII!!!

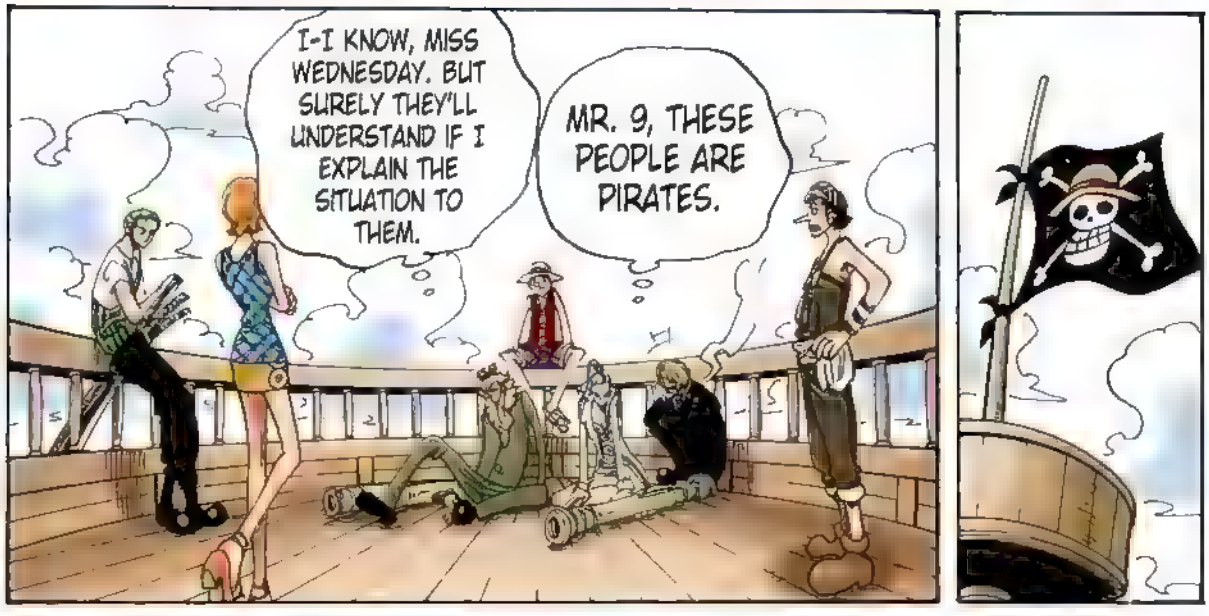

ドゴォォォ…ン!!!
STOP IT, LABOON.


THERE ISN'T MUCH TRANQUILIZER LEFT. I'LL HAVE TO MAKE SOME MORE SOON.
STOP HURTING YOURSELF.


BWAAH!!
ブズ…!!


ゴゴゴゴ…
THROB THROB
BWA…
YOU COULDN'T BREAK IT IF YOU POUNDED UNTIL YOUR HEAD TURNED TO MUSH.
THAT ROCK WALL SEPARATES THE WORLD'S SEAS.
LABOON…

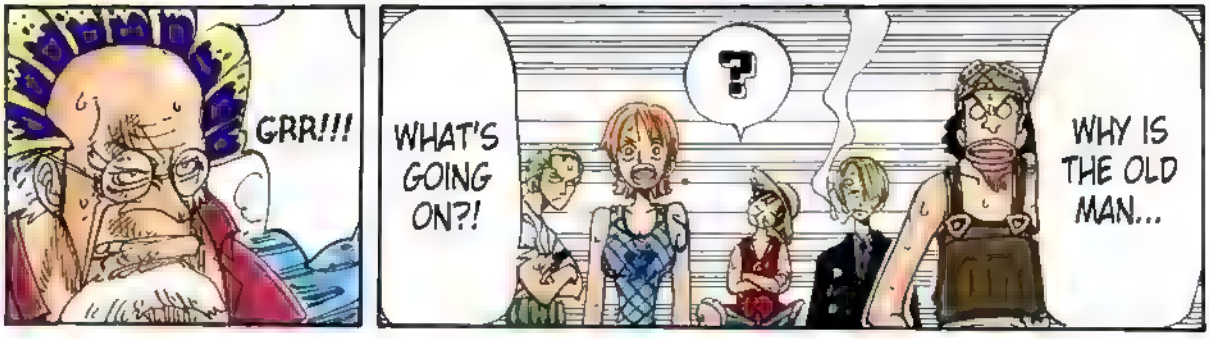

WHO ARE YOU GUYS?!
WELL?
THE WHALE'S CALMED DOWN.

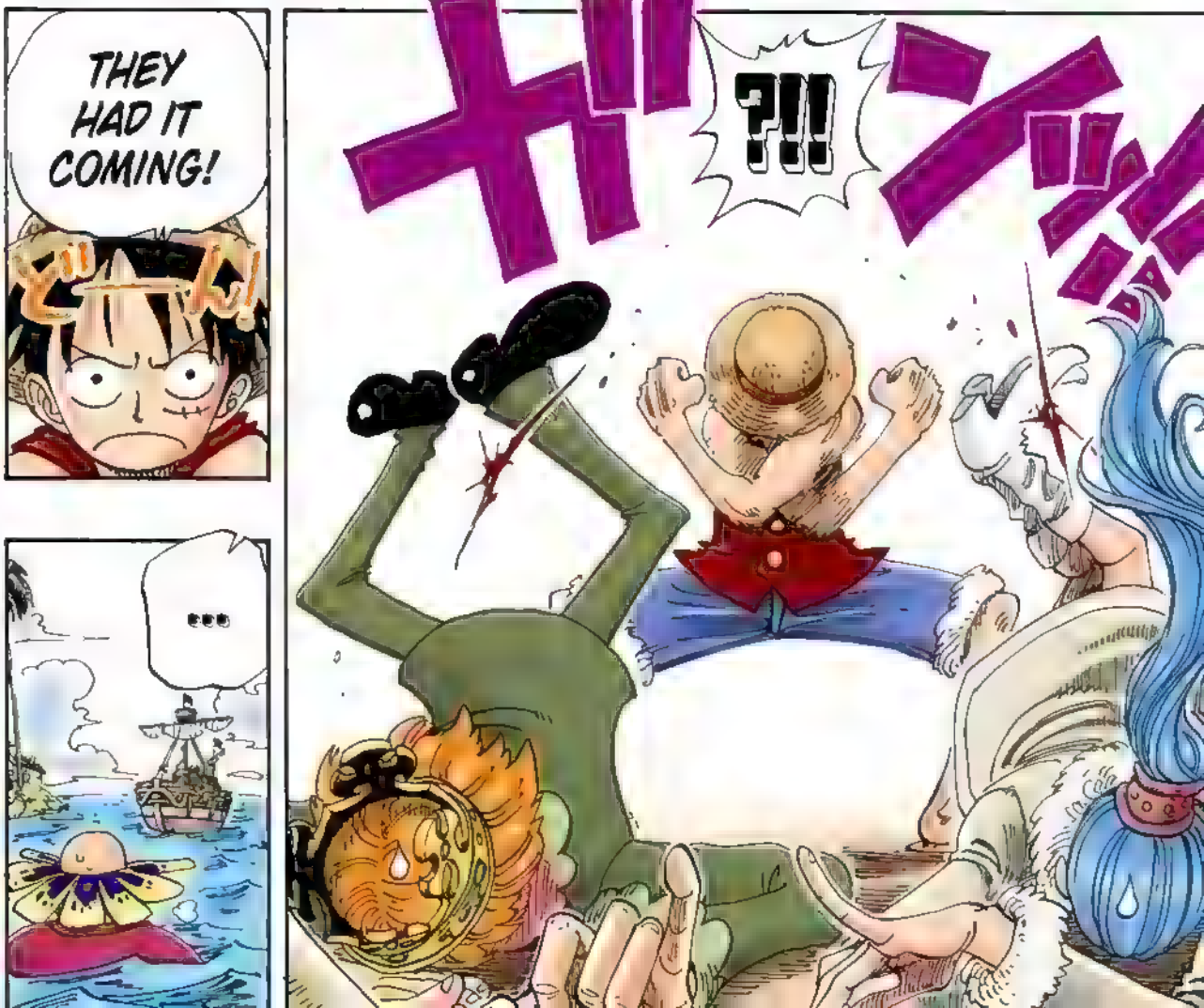

I-I KNOW, MISS WEDNESDAY. BUT SURELY THEY'LL UNDERSTAND IF I EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO THEM.
MR. 9, THESE PEOPLE ARE PIRATES.

WHO'S THE OLD MAN?
HE'S BACK.
...YOU'LL NEVER HARM LABOON !!!
ドリー ku!
AS LONG AS I LIVE...

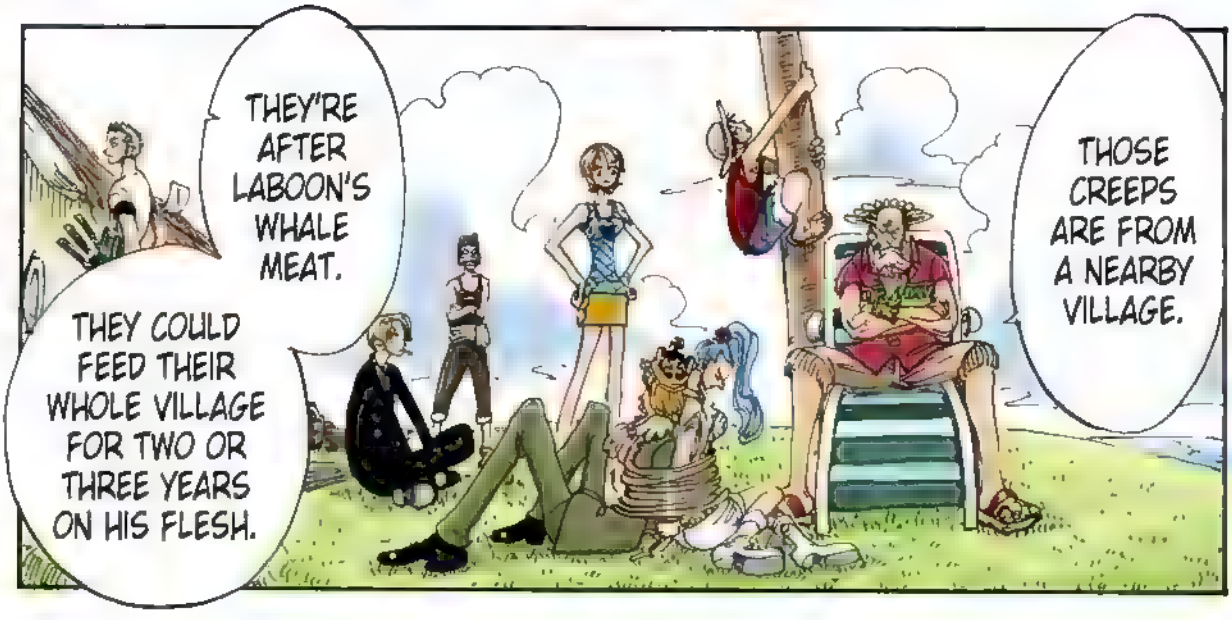
...RIGHT THROUGH HIS INSIDES!!
THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP US FROM BLAST-ING A HOLE...
BUT WE'RE ALREADY IN HIS STOM-ACH!
OH YEAH?
HEH HEH HEH...
YOU NO-GOOD BULLIES!
YOU CAN'T STOP US FROM WHAL-ING!!
THAT OLD MAN TOOK THE BLASTS FOR THE WHALE!

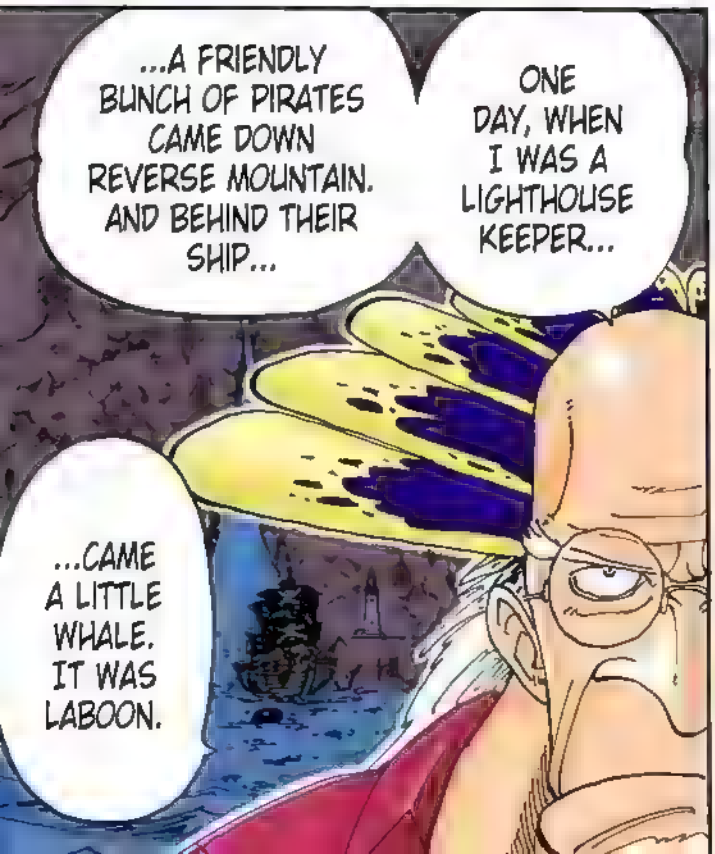
YOU CAN'T STOP US! THIS WHALE'S GOING TO BE FOOD FOR OUR VILLAGE!
ガキン!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!! YOUR EFFORTS ARE FOR NOTHING!
THEN WAS HE... PROTECTING THE WHALE?!

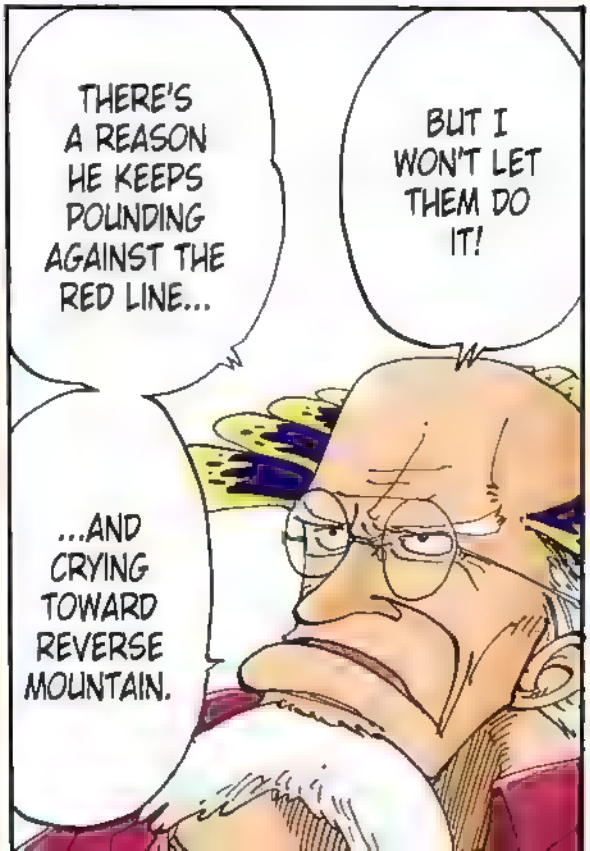

GRR!!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
?
WHY IS THE OLD MAN...

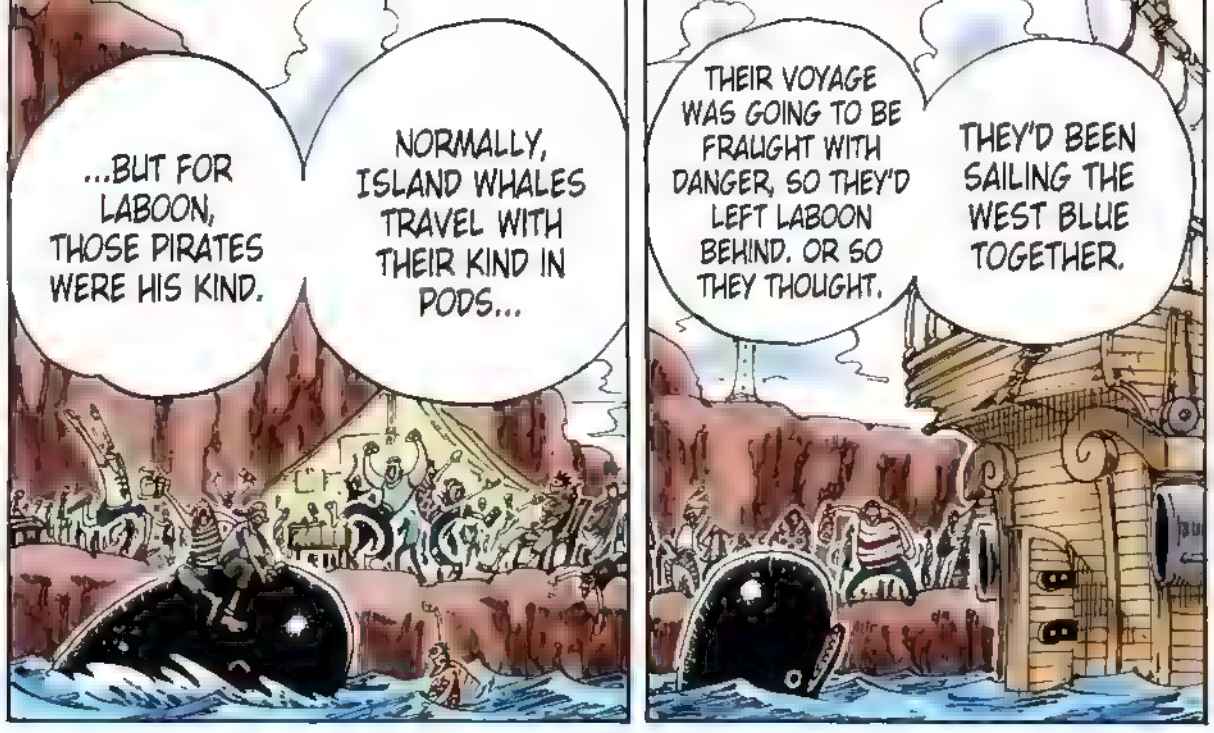

THEY HAD IT COMING!
...
ガシィ!!
?!!

THEY'RE THE BIGGEST WHALES IN THE WORLD.
LABOON IS AN ISLAND WHALE, A SPECIES THAT LIVES ONLY IN THE WEST BLUE.


THEY'RE AFTER LABOON'S WHALE MEAT.
THEY COULD FEED THEIR WHOLE VILLAGE FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS ON HIS FLESH.
THOSE CREEPS ARE FROM A NEARBY VILLAGE.


...A FRIENDLY BUNCH OF PIRATES CAME DOWN REVERSE MOUNTAIN. AND BEHIND THEIR SHIP...
ONE DAY, WHEN I WAS A LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER...
...CAME A LITTLE WHALE. IT WAS LABOON.


THERE'S A REASON HE KEEPS POUNDING AGAINST THE RED LINE...
BUT I WON'T LET THEM DO IT!
...AND CRYING TOWARD REVERSE MOUNTAIN.


...BUT FOR LABOON, THOSE PIRATES WERE HIS KIND.
NORMALLY, ISLAND WHALES TRAVEL WITH THEIR KIND IN PODS...
THEIR VOYAGE WAS GOING TO BE FRAUGHT WITH DANGER, SO THEY'D LEFT LABOON BEHIND. OR SO THEY THOUGHT.
THEY'D BEEN SAILING THE WEST BLUE TOGETHER.

THEN, ON THE DAY THEY LEFT, THE CAPTAIN ASKED ME...
...IF I'D TAKE CARE OF LABOON FOR HIM FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS.
THEIR SHIP WAS DAMAGED, SO THEY STAYED AT THE TWIN CAPES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS...
...AND I GOT TO BE GOOD FRIENDS WITH THEM.

BWAH!
LABOON UNDERSTOOD, SO WE WAITED HERE TOGETHER.
"WE'RE GOING TO CIRCUM-NAVIGATE THE WORLD AND RETURN HERE."

!!
...THAT WAS 50 YEARS AGO.
BUT THEN...
THAT'S WHY HE KEEPS BANGING AGAINST THE CLIFFS AND CALLING TO THE OTHER SIDE.
BWAAAAH
HE STILL THINKS HIS FRIENDS ARE COMING BACK.

Q: How often do you get fan letters? Is it weekly?
If I mailed one on November 1, when would you receive it? Please let me know.

A: In Japan, fan letters go to Shueisha's *Weekly Shonen Jump* Editorial Department. Then, some part-timers sort the mail by author, and my editor brings me my letters each week. So if you're lucky, I might get your letter the day it arrives in the Editorial Department. Normally, I get them within a week or two.

(Outside Japan, the mail will take longer. Readers should send letters to the address below. --Ed.)

Eiichiro Oda/One Piece
c/o VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

Q: In volume 7, you wrote that you wear the same expression as your characters when you draw them, but is that true when you draw Nami's sexy expressions, too? Do you wear that "Mmm" expression?

A: Why of course. The sexiness of my expressions surpasses even those of the magazine queens--according to the town gossips.

Q: Hey, Ei-chan,* this is the first time I'm writing. (Giggle!) This is embarrassing. I have a question for you. Buggy the Clown comes apart, right? Does that go for all of his parts? Don't draw anything else until you've answered my question!!

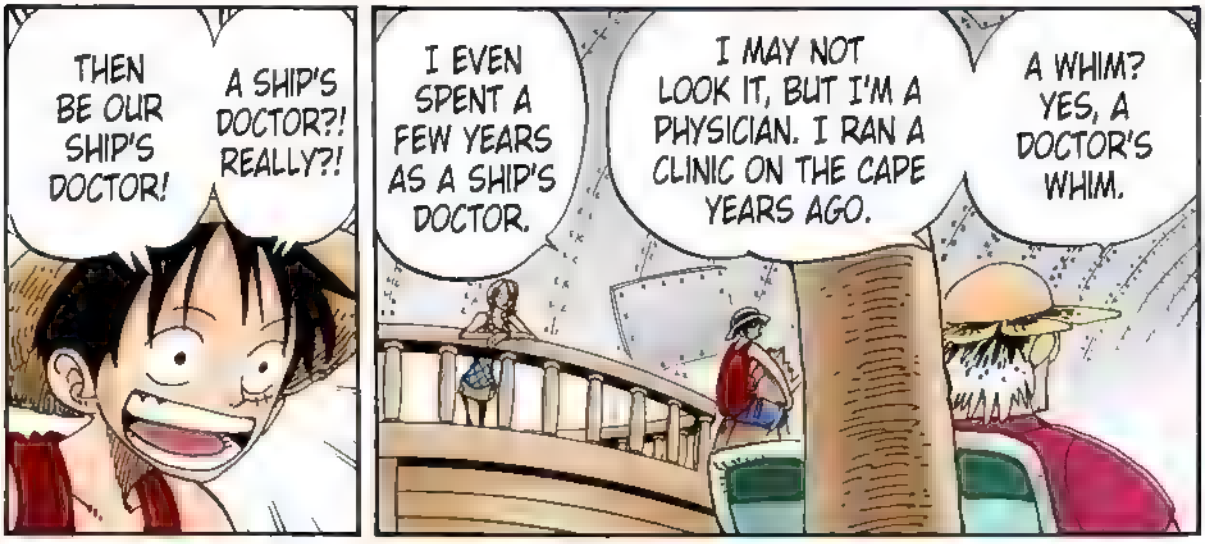
A: Yes, that goes for all of his body parts.

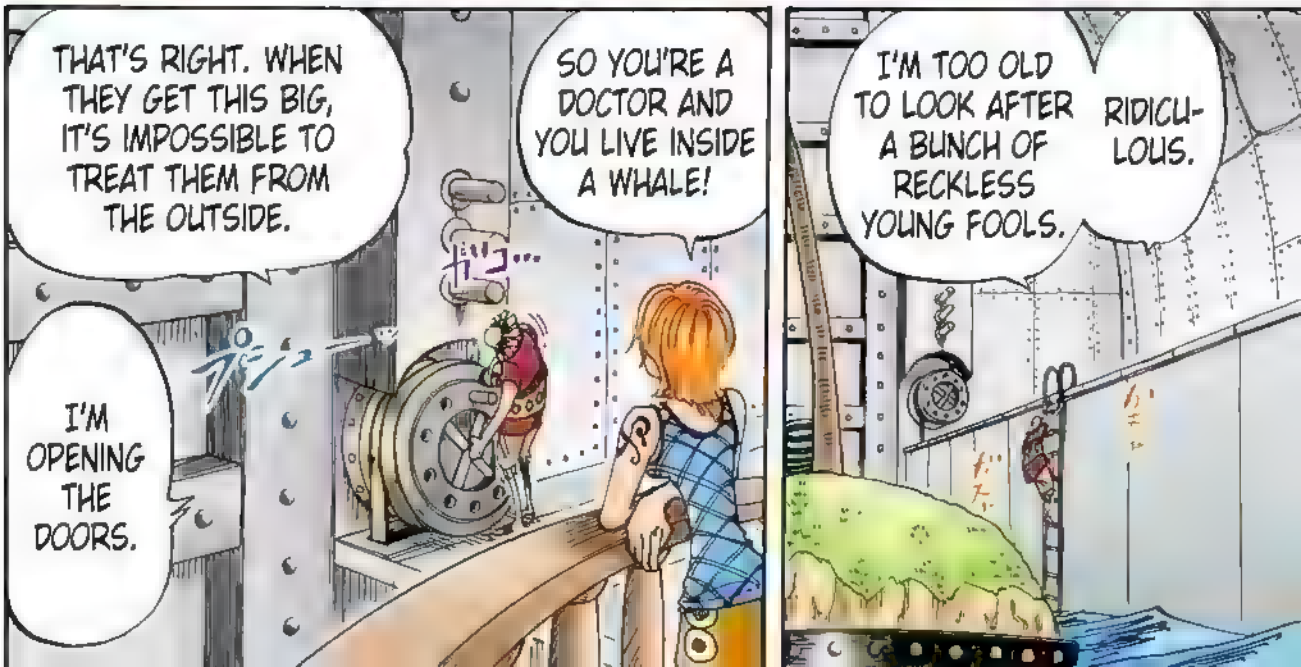
(*"Ei" is short for Eiichiro. The reader is being playful here by adding the very informal *"-chan"* after it. --Ed.)

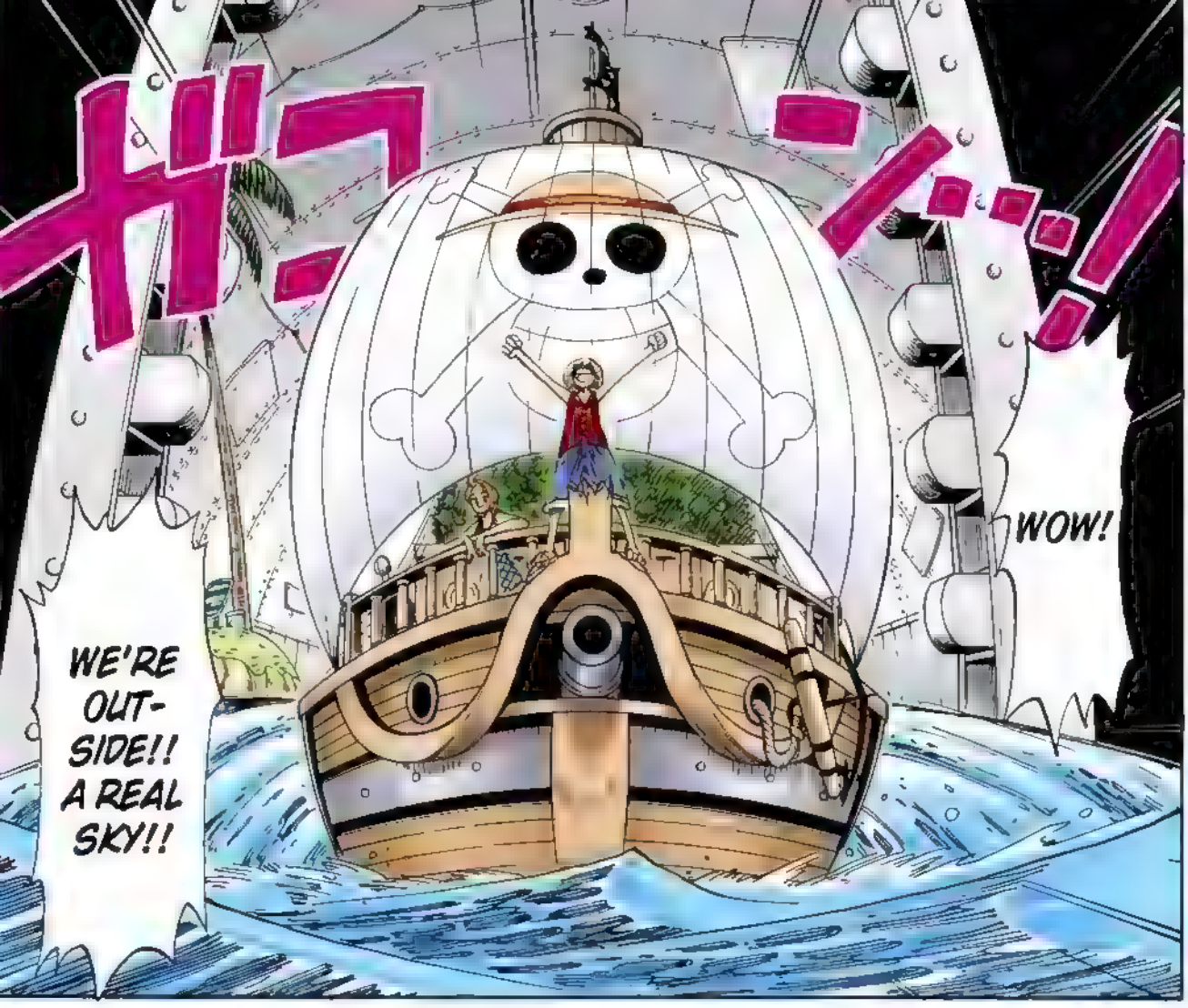
Chapter 104:
CAPE PROMISE

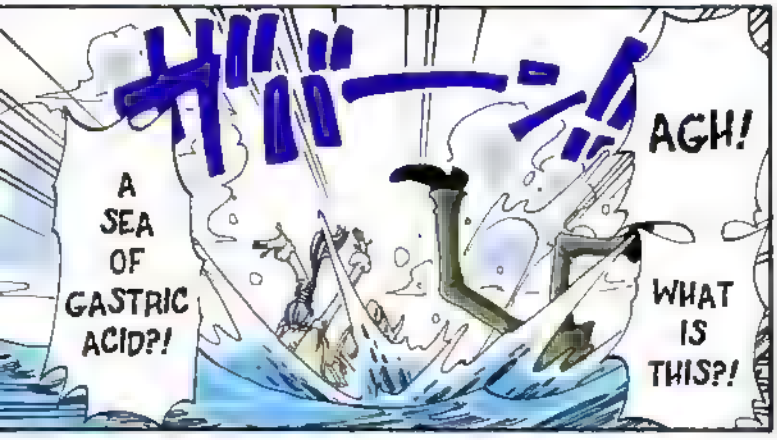
DIARY OF KOBY-MEPPO
VOLUME 18: "VICE ADMIRAL GARP'S NEGLIGENCE"

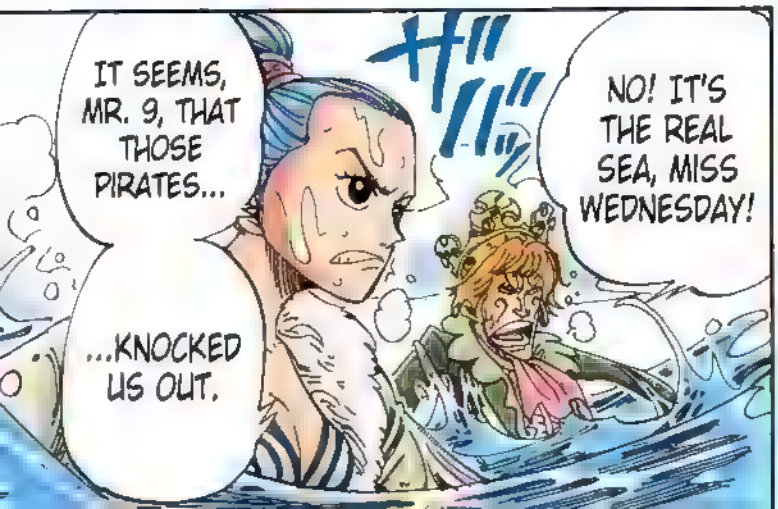
AND YOU BUILT IT INSIDE THE WHALE WITHOUT GETTING KILLED.
WHAT MADE YOU DO IT, A WHIM?
トリーーーー!!
THIS WATERWAY IS COOL!

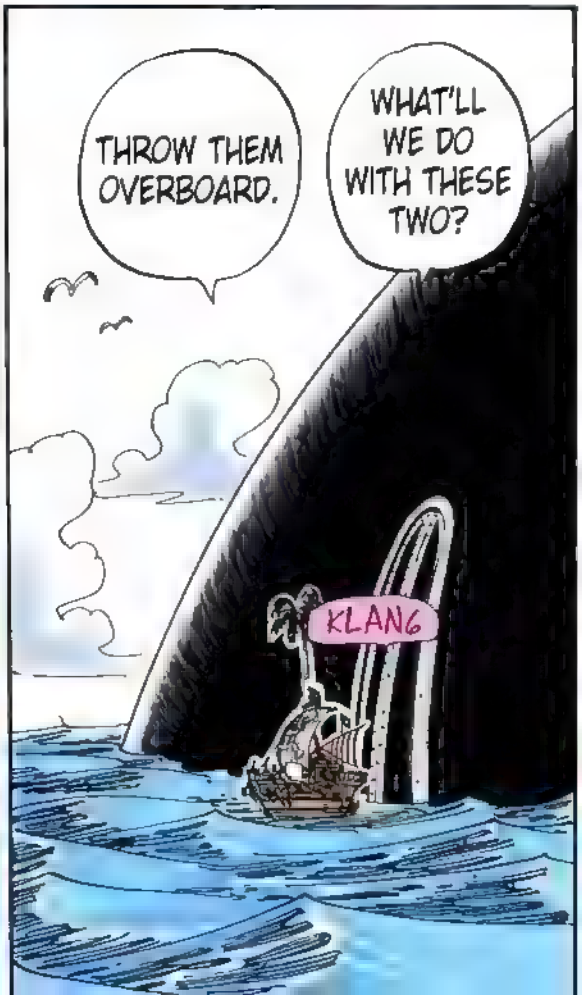

THEN BE OUR SHIP'S DOCTOR!
A SHIP'S DOCTOR?! REALLY?!
I EVEN SPENT A FEW YEARS AS A SHIP'S DOCTOR.
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M A PHYSICIAN. I RAN A CLINIC ON THE CAPE YEARS AGO.
A WHIM? YES, A DOCTOR'S WHIM.

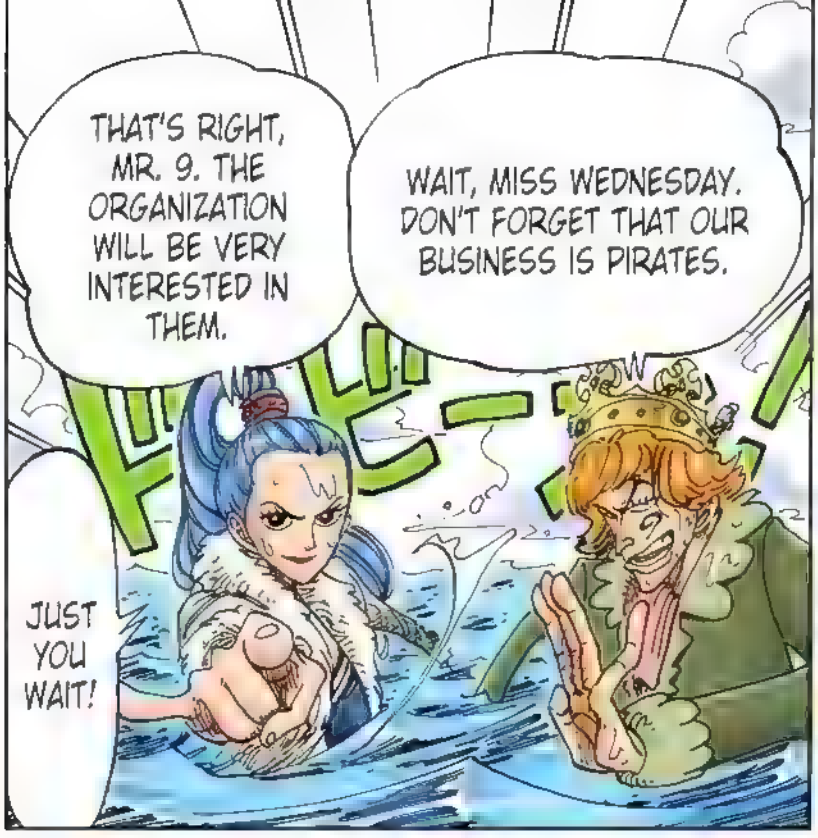

THAT'S RIGHT. WHEN THEY GET THIS BIG, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TREAT THEM FROM THE OUTSIDE.
SO YOU'RE A DOCTOR AND YOU LIVE INSIDE A WHALE!
I'M OPENING THE DOORS.
I'M TOO OLD TO LOOK AFTER A BUNCH OF RECKLESS YOUNG FOOLS.
RIDICULOUS.

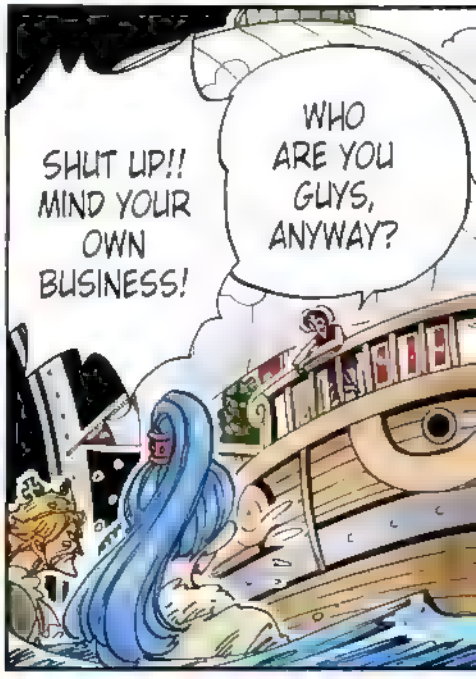

WOW!
WE'RE OUT-SIDE!! A REAL SKY!!

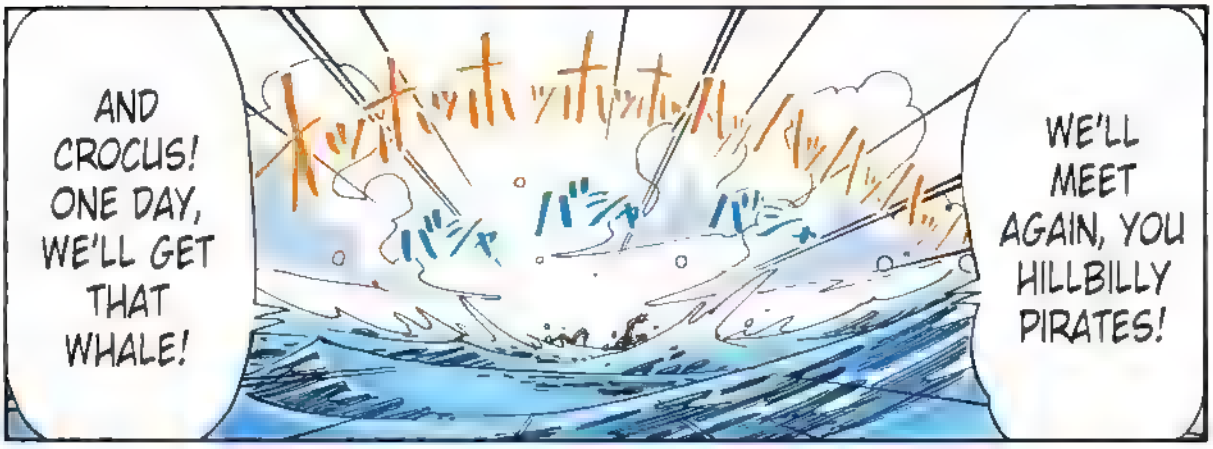

A SEA OF GASTRIC ACID?!
AGH!
WHAT IS THIS?!


IT SEEMS, MR. 9, THAT THOSE PIRATES...
...KNOCKED US OUT.
NO! IT'S THE REAL SEA, MISS WEDNESDAY!


THROW THEM OVERBOARD.
WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THESE TWO?
KLANG


THAT'S RIGHT, MR. 9. THE ORGANIZATION WILL BE VERY INTERESTED IN THEM.
WAIT, MISS WEDNESDAY. DON'T FORGET THAT OUR BUSINESS IS PIRATES.
JUST YOU WAIT!


SHUT UP!! MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
WHO ARE YOU GUYS, ANYWAY?

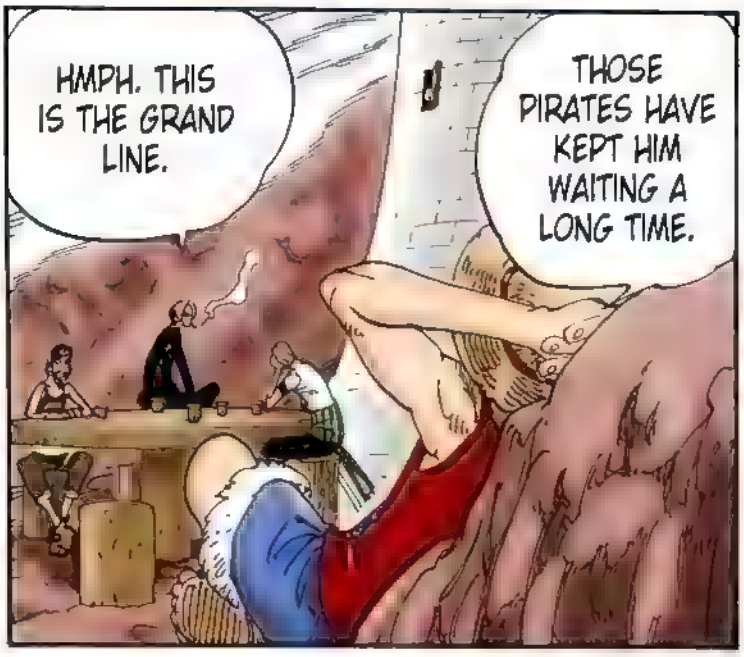

AND CROCUS! ONE DAY, WE'LL GET THAT WHALE!
WE'LL MEET AGAIN, YOU HILLBILLY PIRATES!

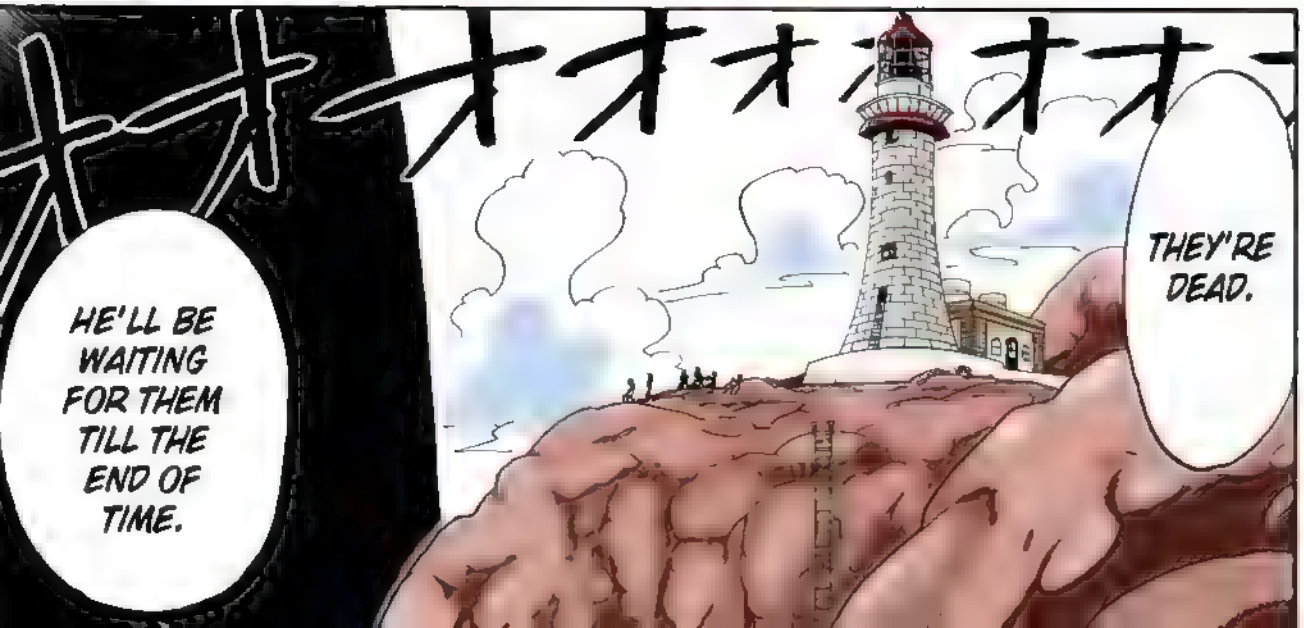
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, SOME NO-GOOD WHALERS ARE SURE TO SHOW UP.
SHOULD WE LET THEM GO? WON'T THEY COME AFTER THE WHALE AGAIN?

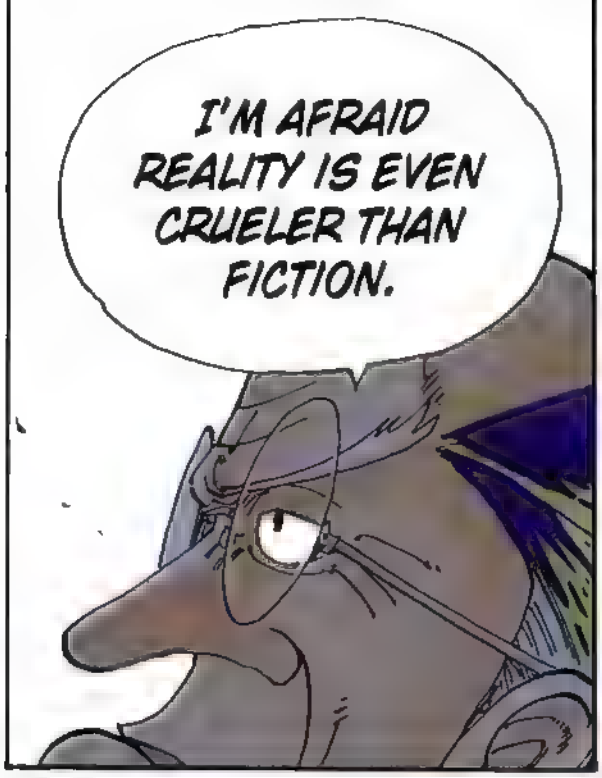
WHAT'S THIS? THEY MUST'VE DROPPED IT.
MISS WEDNESDAY, EH? A WOMAN OF MYSTERY... ♡
See you around, sweetheart

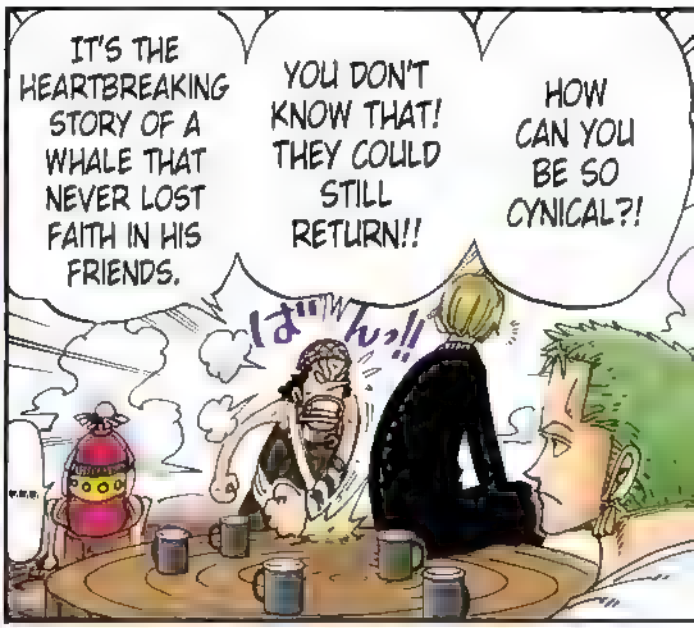
ノオオオオオオオ
SO HE'S BEEN WAITING 50 YEARS.
AND HE STILL BELIEVES THEY'RE COMING BACK FOR HIM.

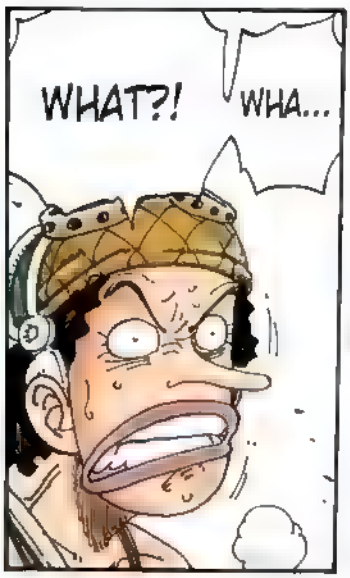
IT'S BEEN 50 YEARS NOW. THERE'S YOUR ANSWER.
THOSE GUYS SAID THEY'D BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF YEARS.

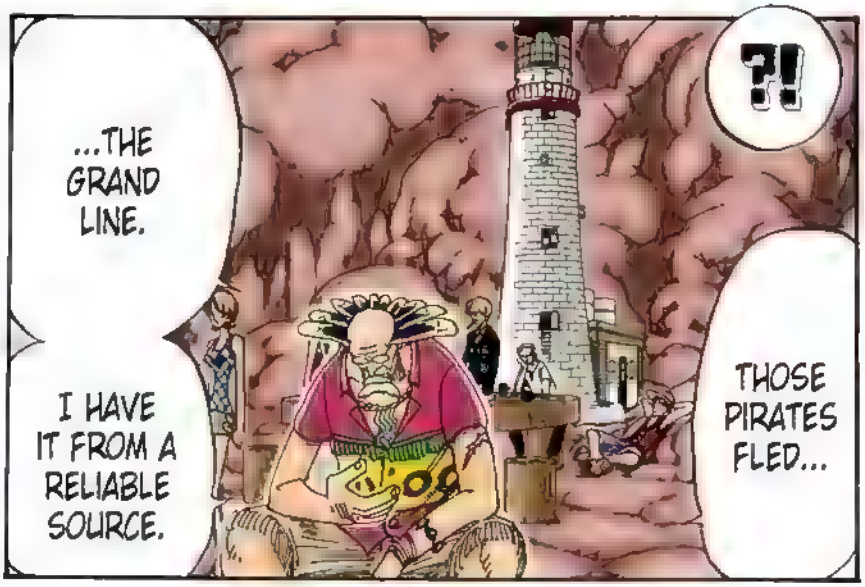

HMPH. THIS IS THE GRAND LINE.
THOSE PIRATES HAVE KEPT HIM WAITING A LONG TIME.


オオオオオオ
HE'LL BE WAITING FOR THEM TILL THE END OF TIME.
THEY'RE DEAD.


I'M AFRAID REALITY IS EVEN CRUELER THAN FICTION.


IT'S THE HEARTBREAKING STORY OF A WHALE THAT NEVER LOST FAITH IN HIS FRIENDS.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT! THEY COULD STILL RETURN!!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CYNICAL?!
は""ん?!!


WHAT?!
WHA...


...THE GRAND LINE.
I HAVE IT FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE.
?!
THOSE PIRATES FLED...

BUT EVEN IF THEY ARE ALIVE, THEY CAN NEVER RETURN HERE.
THE SEASON, THE CLIMATE, THE OCEAN CURRENTS, EVEN THE AIR CURRENTS... EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS PLACE IS UNPREDICTABLE.
PRECISELY. THAT'S WHY...
...THEIR FATE IS UNCER-TAIN.

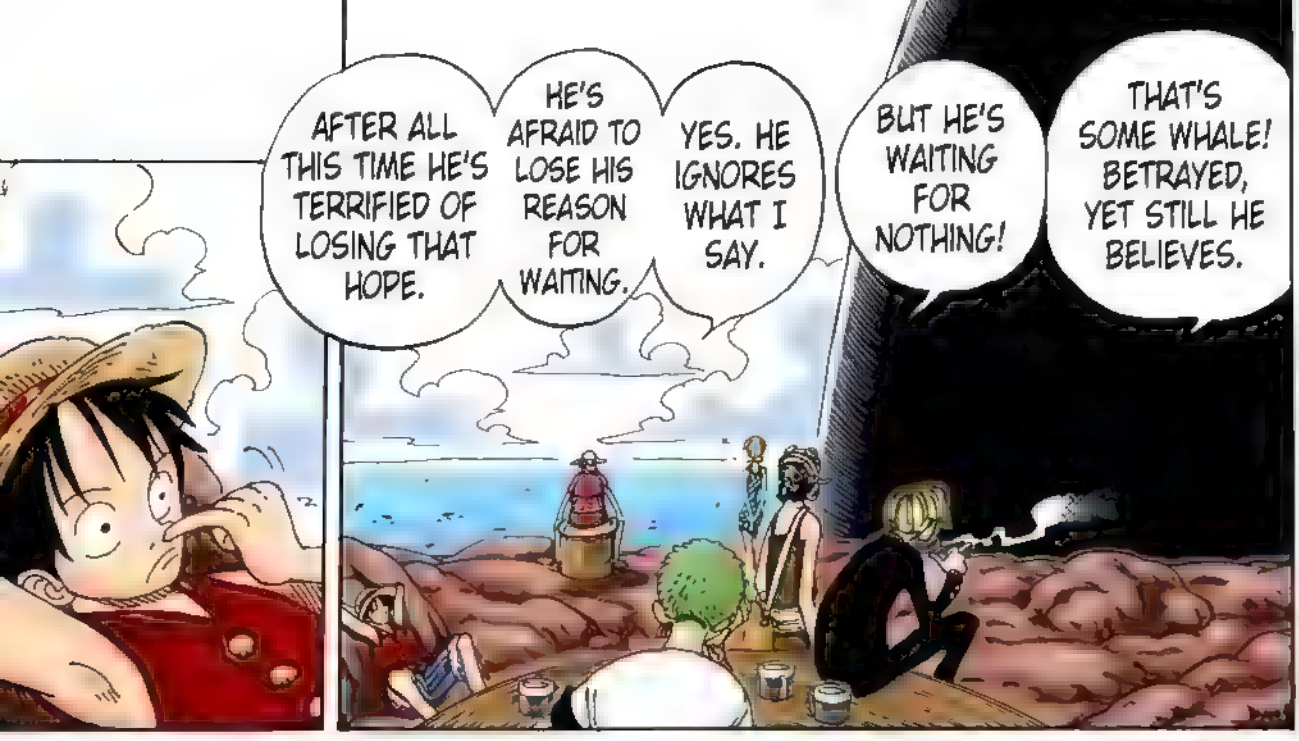
AND THEY ABANDONED THE POOR WHALE?! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
BUT TO FLEE THE GRAND LINE, THEY'D HAVE TO CROSS THE CALM BELT!

WEAK HEARTS SOON SUCCUMB TO FEAR ON THE GRAND LINE.
ON THESE SEAS, NOTHING IS EVER NORMAL.
...HE STILL BELIEVES IN THOSE JERKS!
AND AFTER 50 YEARS...
THEN THEY DID ABANDON THE WHALE!
IT'S TOO CRUEL!
...AND HIGHTAILED IT OUT OF HERE, EH?
...CARED MORE FOR THEIR LIVES THAN FOR PROMISES THEY'D MADE...
AND THE WEAK OF HEART...
FSSSS
...
LABOON, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
WOULDN'T LISTEN?
I TOLD HIM THE WHOLE STORY...
...BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN.
?
HE CAN UNDER-STAND HUMAN SPEECH, CAN'T HE?
BUT WHY DON'T YOU TELL LABOON THE TRUTH?

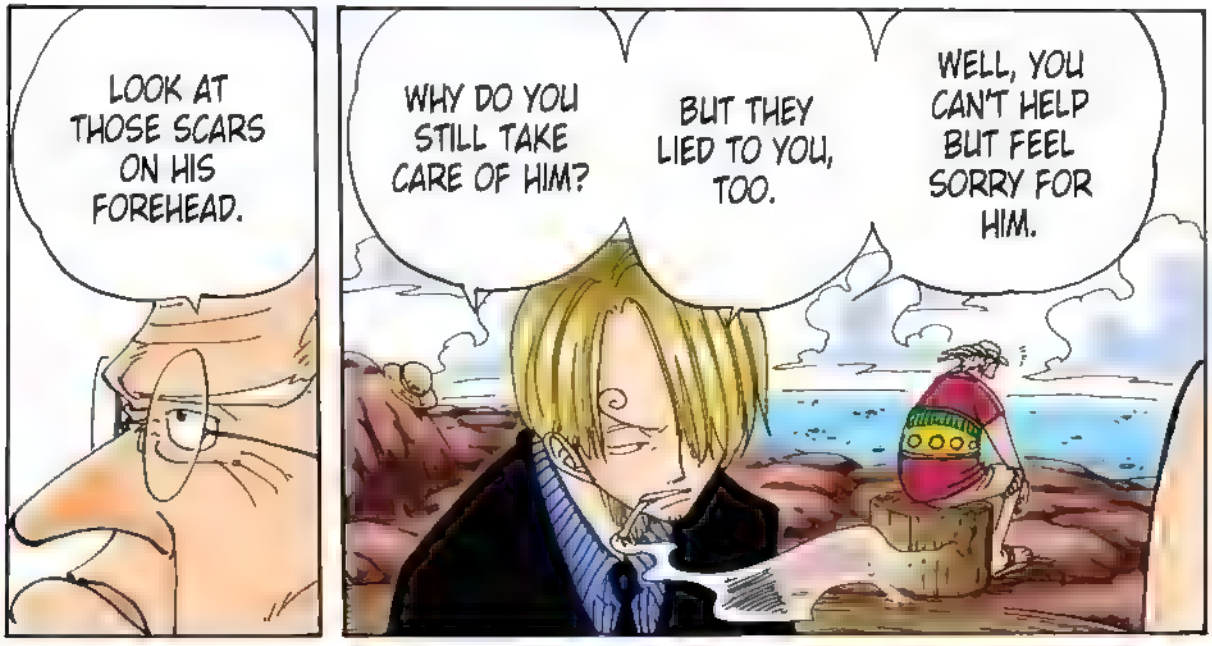
THOSE PIRATES WHO LEFT YOU IN MY CARE...
...HAVE FLED THE GRAND LINE.
...AND THEY MADE YOU A PROMISE.
BUT THEY'RE NEVER COMING BACK.
I KNOW THEY WERE YOUR FRIENDS...
...
オオオオオオオ
!
BIBIBIB

LABOON! LISTEN TO ME!
BWAAH!!
オオオ...
LABOON...
BWAAAAH!!
THEY'LL NEVER--
LABOON!
BWAAAH!!
THEY'LL NEVER--
LABOON!!
BWAH!!
WAAH! WAAH!
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, BUT YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT IT!
AAH!!

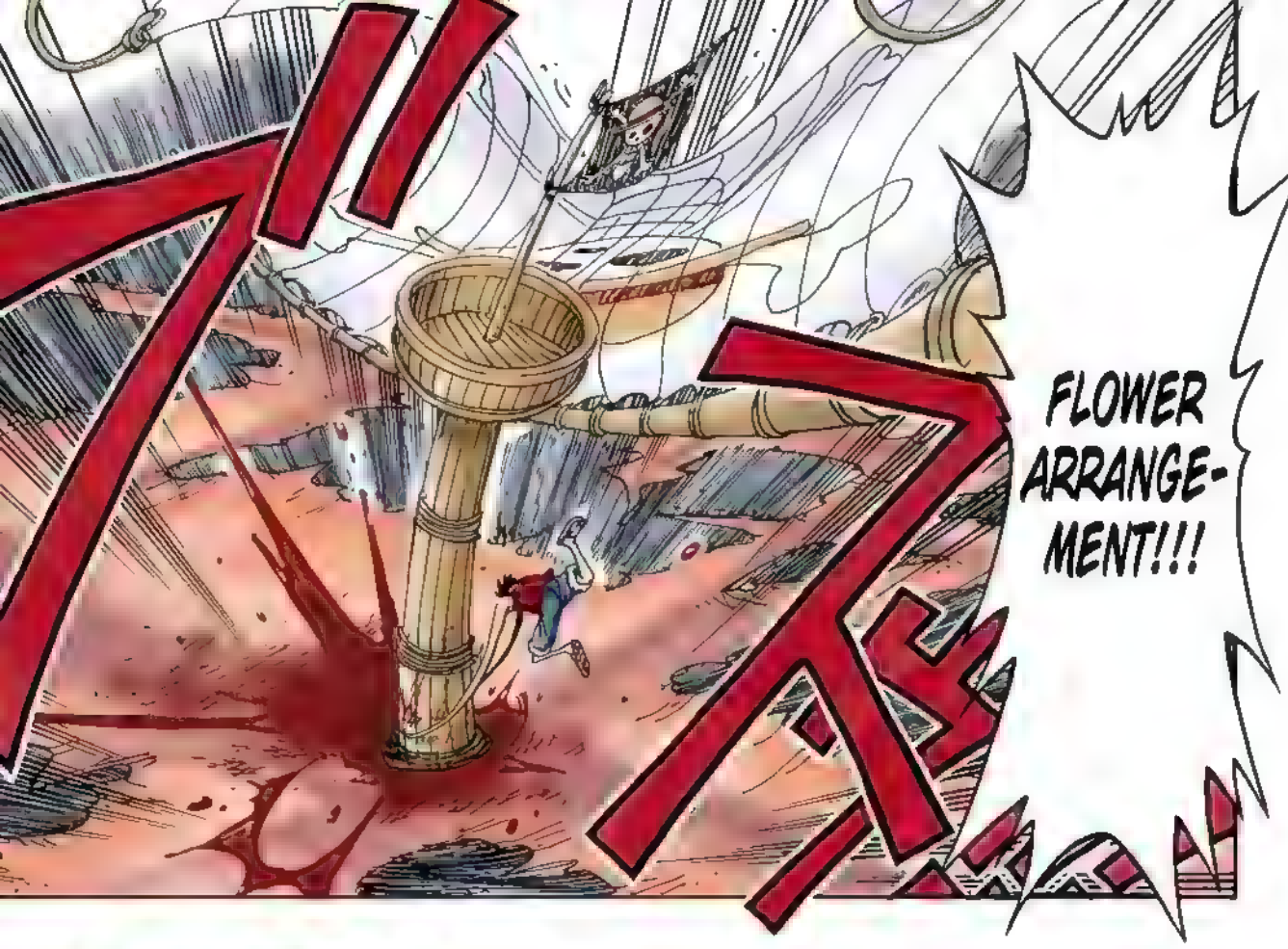
BWAAAH...
AND THAT'S WHEN IT BEGAN.
オオオオ...
...
YOU...
...
THEN HE STARTED RAMMING THE RED LINE WITH HIS HEAD.
オオオオオオ
LABOON TURNED TOWARD REVERSE MOUNTAIN AND BEGAN TO WAIL.
オオオオ オオオオ
I'VE TRIED EXPLAINING IT TO HIM MANY TIMES.
BUT HE REFUSES TO FACE THE TRUTH.
IT'S AS IF HE WERE CONVINCED THAT...
...ANY DAY NOW, THE PIRATES WOULD RETURN FROM BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN.

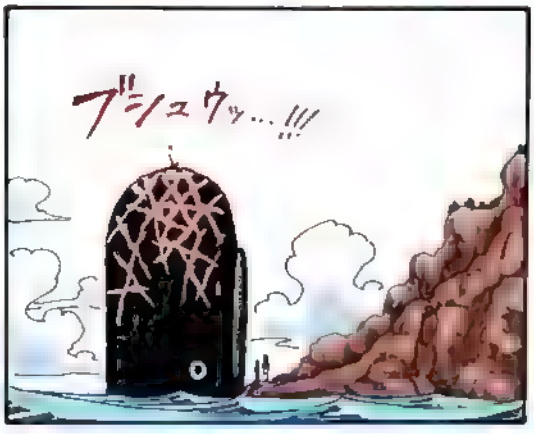

AFTER ALL THIS TIME HE'S TERRIFIED OF LOSING THAT HOPE.
HE'S AFRAID TO LOSE HIS REASON FOR WAITING.
YES. HE IGNORES WHAT I SAY.
BUT HE'S WAITING FOR NOTHING!
THAT'S SOME WHALE! BETRAYED, YET STILL HE BELIEVES.

THOSE PIRATES HE CAME HERE WITH...
...WERE NOT ONLY HIS FRIENDS, THEY WERE HIS ONE HOPE FOR GOING HOME.
HIS HOME IS THE WEST BLUE, WHICH LIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RED LINE.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY HOME FROM HERE.


LOOK AT THOSE SCARS ON HIS FOREHEAD.
WHY DO YOU STILL TAKE CARE OF HIM?
BUT THEY LIED TO YOU, TOO.
WELL, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.

I CAN'T STAND BY AND WATCH HIM DIE.
WE HAVE AN ODD RELATION-SHIP, BUT WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR 50 YEARS.
...HE WILL SURELY DIE.
IF LABOON CONTINUES TO RAM THE RED LINE...
!
HUH?!
RAAH!
WAAAAH!!!
GUM-GUM...
びよーーーん!!!
IS THAT YOUR NEWEST WOUND?!
OKAY, I'VE REACHED THE TOP!
BLUP BLUP...
YOU TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HIM FOR ONE SECOND AND...
WHAT'S THAT IDIOT DOING?
RAAH!
MAYBE HE LIKES MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.


FLOWER ARRANGE-MENT!!!


ブシュウッ…!!!

HEY, ISN'T THAT THE MAST...
...OF OUR SHIP?
YEAH, THAT'S THE MAIN MAST.

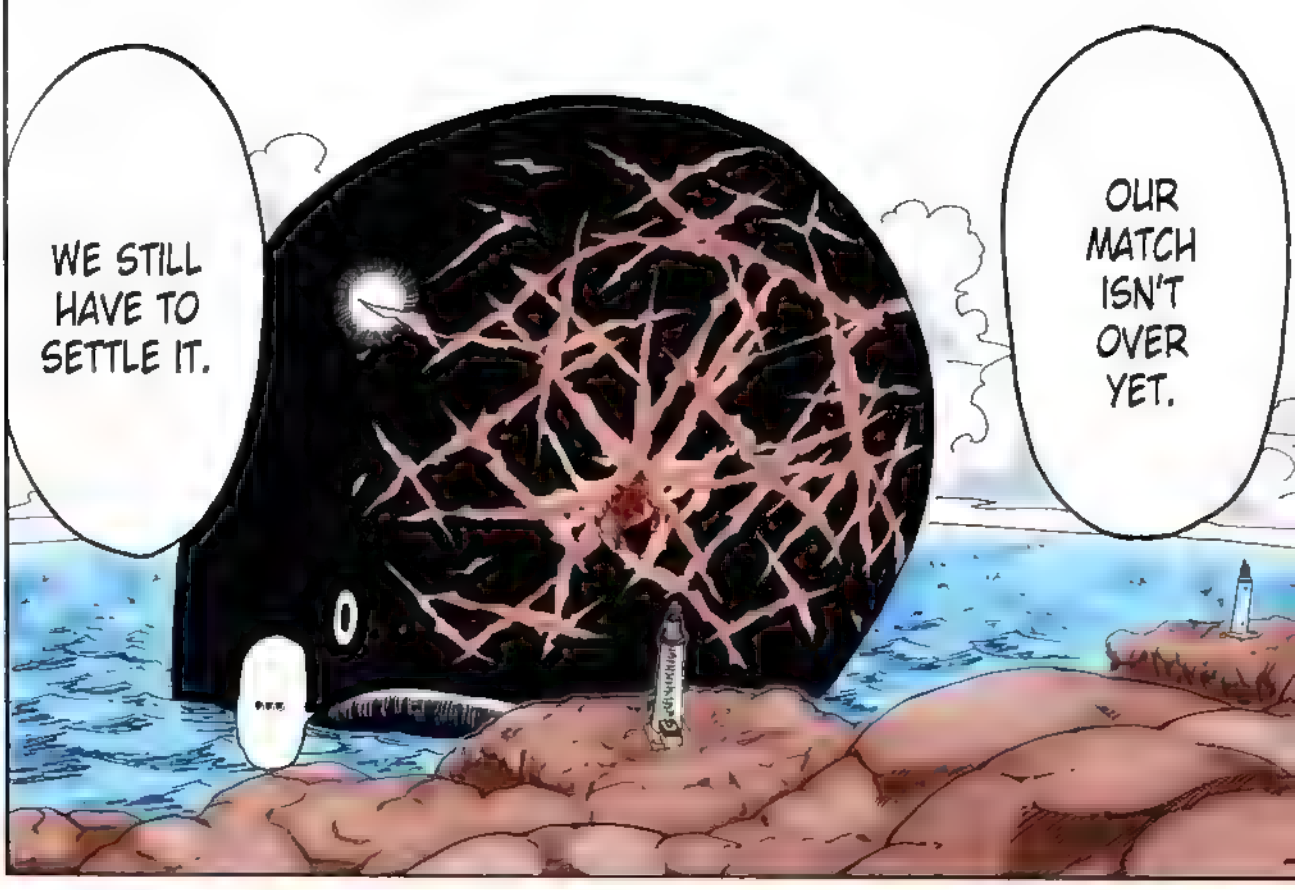
BWAAH!!
...?!

オオオオオオ
BHAHA!!!
ゴオオオオ
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
DON'T DESTROY OUR SHIP!
あああああああ
WAAH !!!
ブンブン!!
WAAH !!!

WAAAH !!!
HE'S COMING THIS WAY!
HE'S GONNA RAM US!
KRUNCH
!!!!

オオオオオ
BWAH!!
...!!
WATCH OUT, OLD MAN!
HEY, KID!
WHA!!
HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT! NOT EVEN THAT WHALE CAN SMASH LUFFY!
BWAH!!
DUMMY!
HEH HEH...
ドカーン!
WHY, YOU!
WAAH!
UNGH!
WHAT'S HE UP TO?
WOOSH
ゴオオオ!!!
YIKES !!!

BWAAH!!
LUFFY! WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO?!
...
ヒョウ……
IT'S A DRAW !!!
...?
パチ
I'M PRETTY STRONG, HUH?!


WE STILL HAVE TO SETTLE IT.
...
OUR MATCH ISN'T OVER YET.

AFTER WE CIRCLE THE GRAND LINE...
...
...BUT NOW YOU'VE GOT A RIVAL--ME!!
YOUR FRIENDS MAY BE GONE FOR GOOD...

ボロ
...I'M COMING BACK HERE...

...AND WE'RE GONNA FIGHT AGAIN!!

Q: I'm president of the International Somewhat Cool Hair Federation. Chef Zeff of the restaurant ship has cool hair color, length, and luster--all really cool!! So Chef Zeff has been chosen as the 41st Somewhat Cool Hair Champion! Congratulations! Oda Sensei, may we please have your comments!?

A: Well, I'm curious about the other 40 champions.

Q: I've mulled this over for some time. How…how can Arlong wear finger rings when he's got webbed fingers? Please tell me.

A: He sticks them right into his fingers. They're more like pierced rings than normal rings.

Q: Brrrring… Brrring… Click…
Umm…hello? Is this Mino@nta*? Listen to this… Huh? You're not Mino@nta? Huh? Oda Sensei? Oh, sorry. Wrong number…
Click… Beep… Beep… Beep… Beep…

A: It's okay...

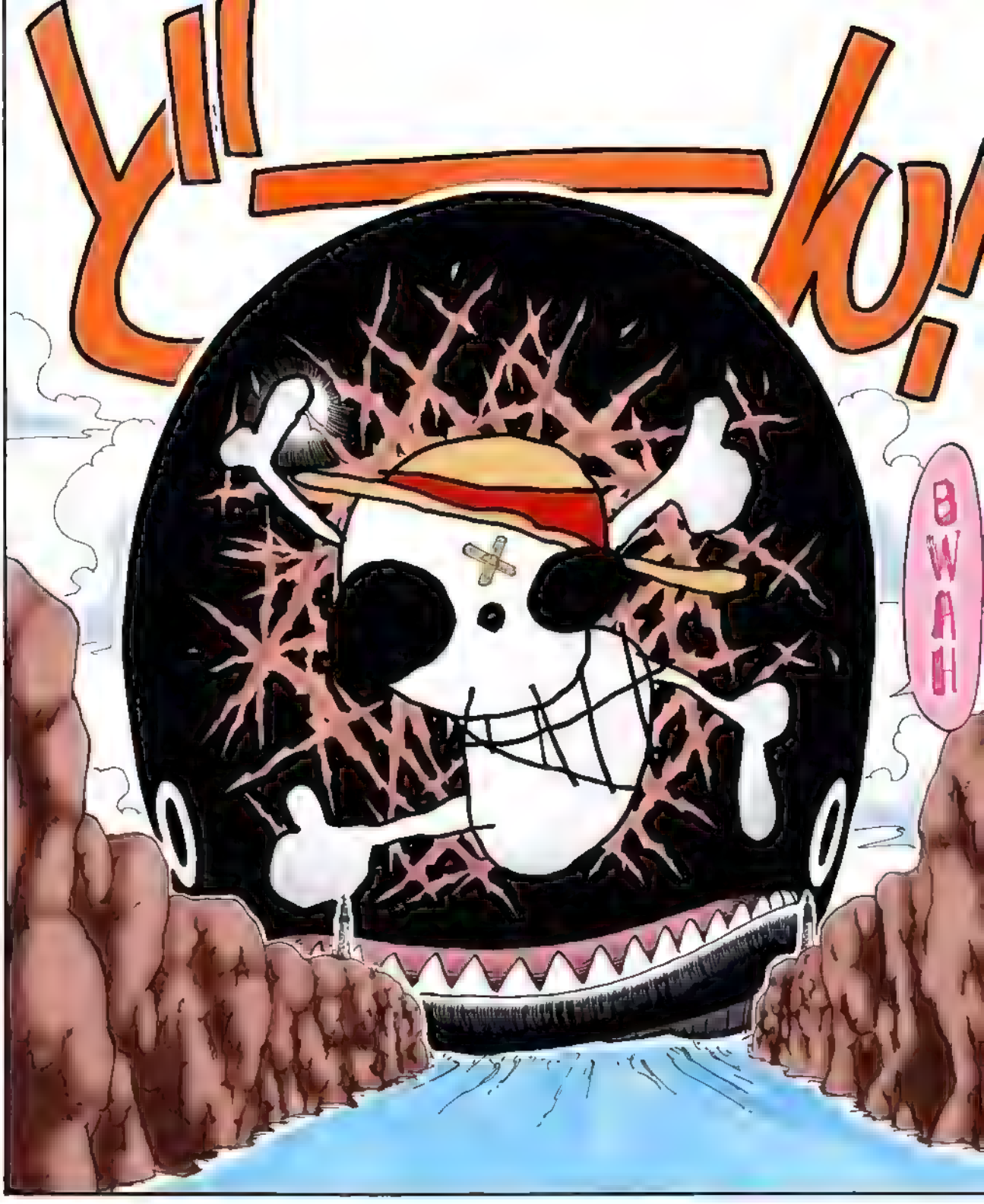
Q: (Episode I) Help, Oda Baby!
I think this guy named Yamada who lives next door is a Fish-Man! I mean, he's got gills on his face. Huh? I feel a sudden chill. Maybe I turned the air conditioner up too high. I–I sense something there...
Vwmm (the sound of a light saber being activated).
To be continued…

A: I'm not saving you.

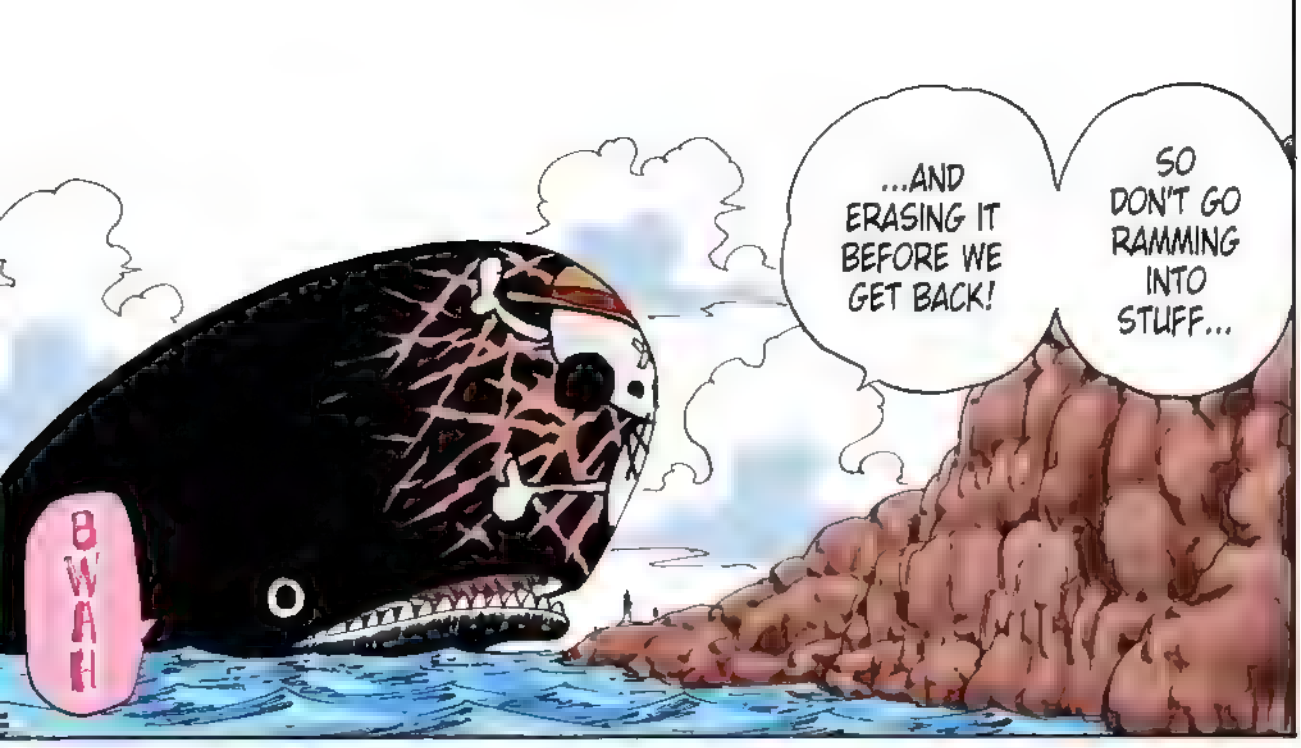
(*Mino@nta is a thinly disguised reference to a popular TV host in Japan who takes calls from viewers during his show. Ed.)

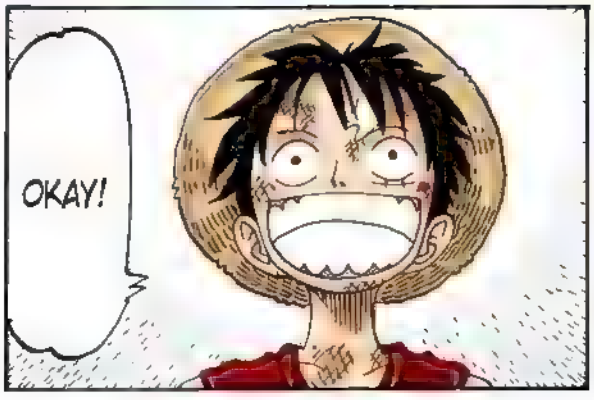
Chapter 105:
LOG POSE

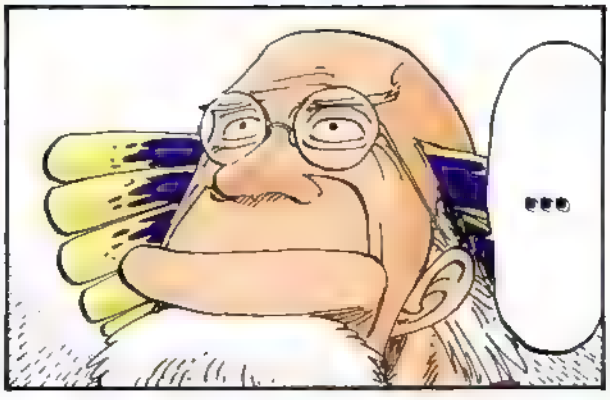
DIARY OF KOBY-MEPPO
VOLUME 19: "MORGAN ALONE"


BWAH

THAT MARK IS OUR CONTRACT!
RIGHT! OKAY!


SO DON'T GO RAMMING INTO STUFF...
...AND ERASING IT BEFORE WE GET BACK!
BWAH

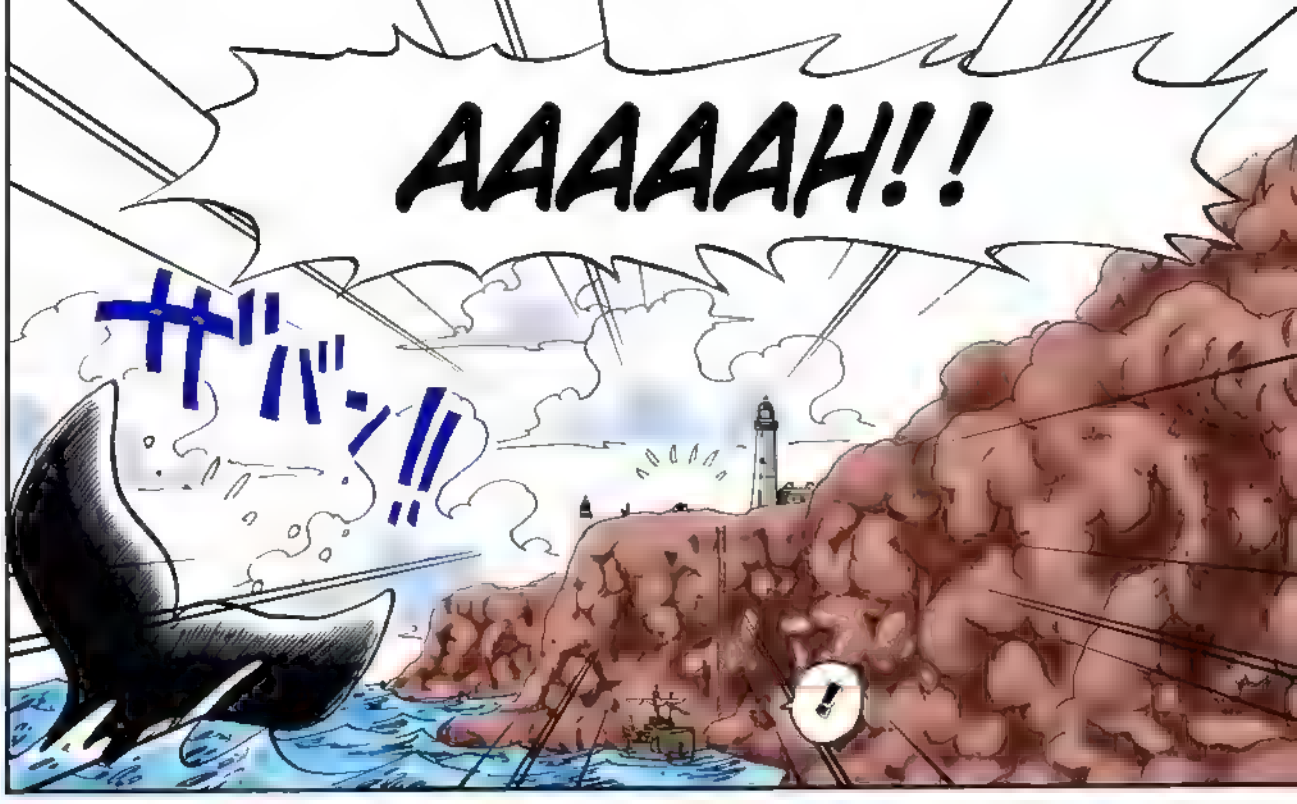

OKAY!


...

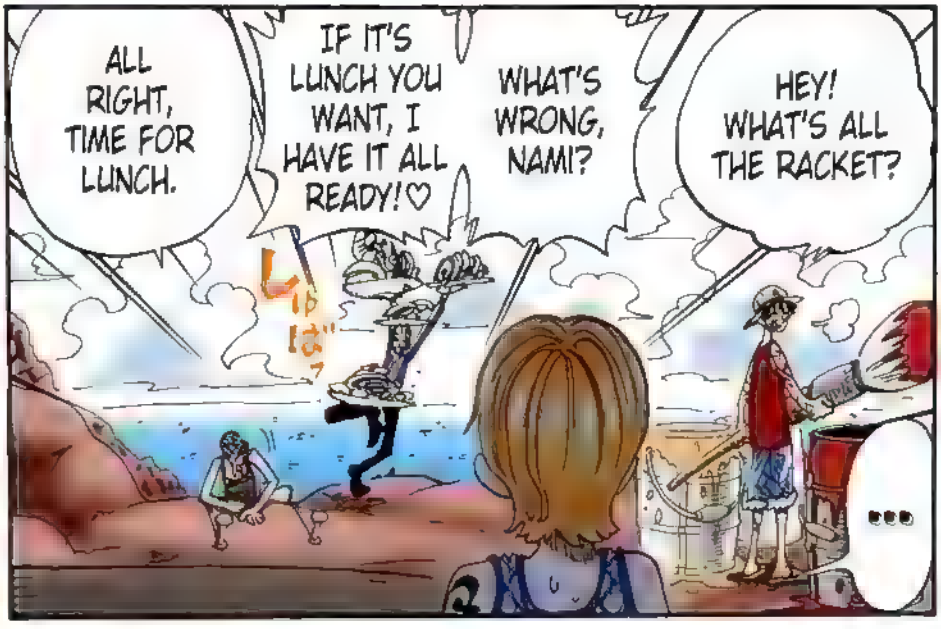
ZZZ...
HEY! GIMME A HAND HERE, ZORO!
THAT DAMN WHALE! HE ALMOST WRECKED OUR SHIP!
I'M NOT THE SHIP'S CARPENTER.

THIS BLUEFIN ELEPHANT TUNA IS A COOK'S DREAM.

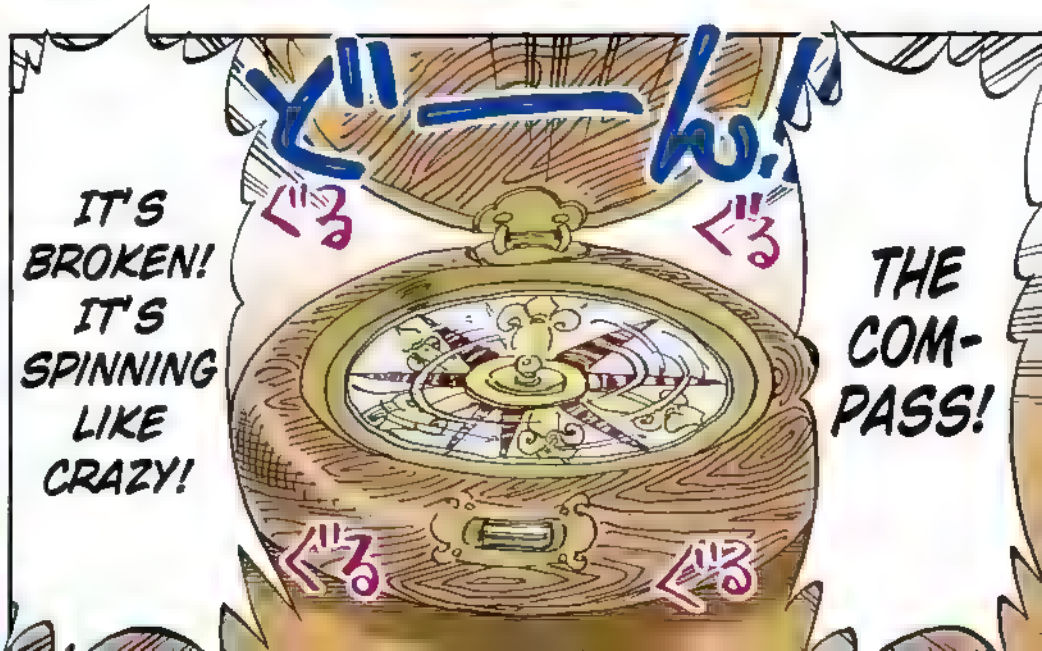
NOW THEN, LET'S PLAN OUT OUR VOYAGE.


AAAAAH!!
ザバン!!

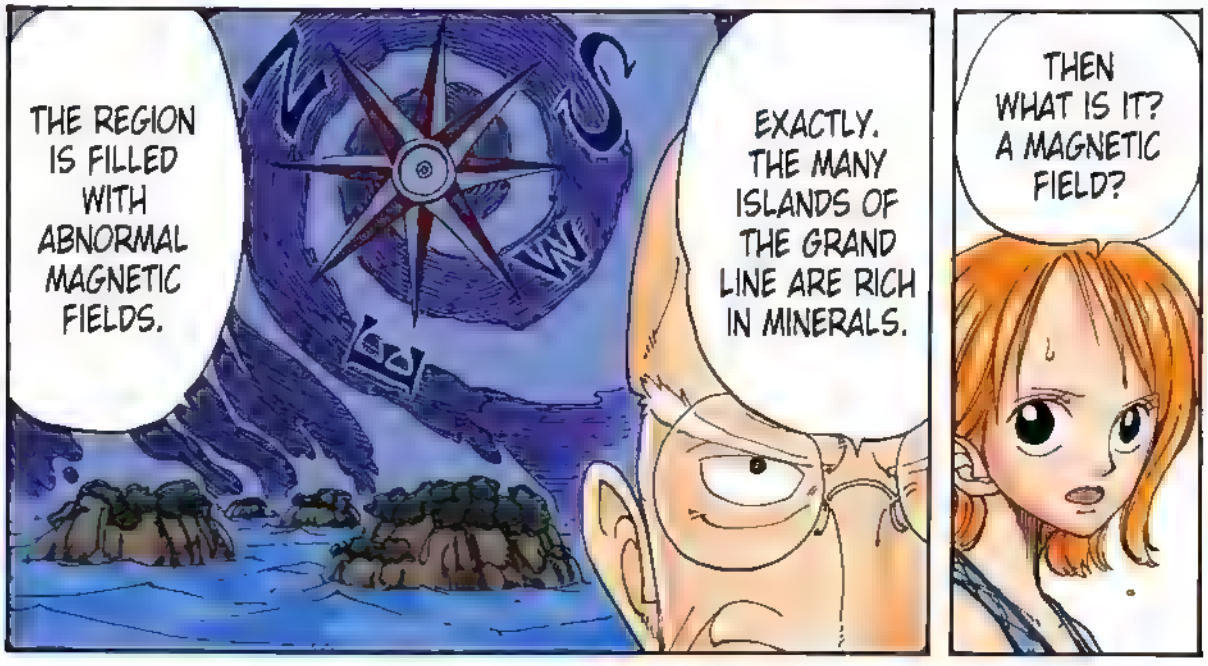
ZZZ...

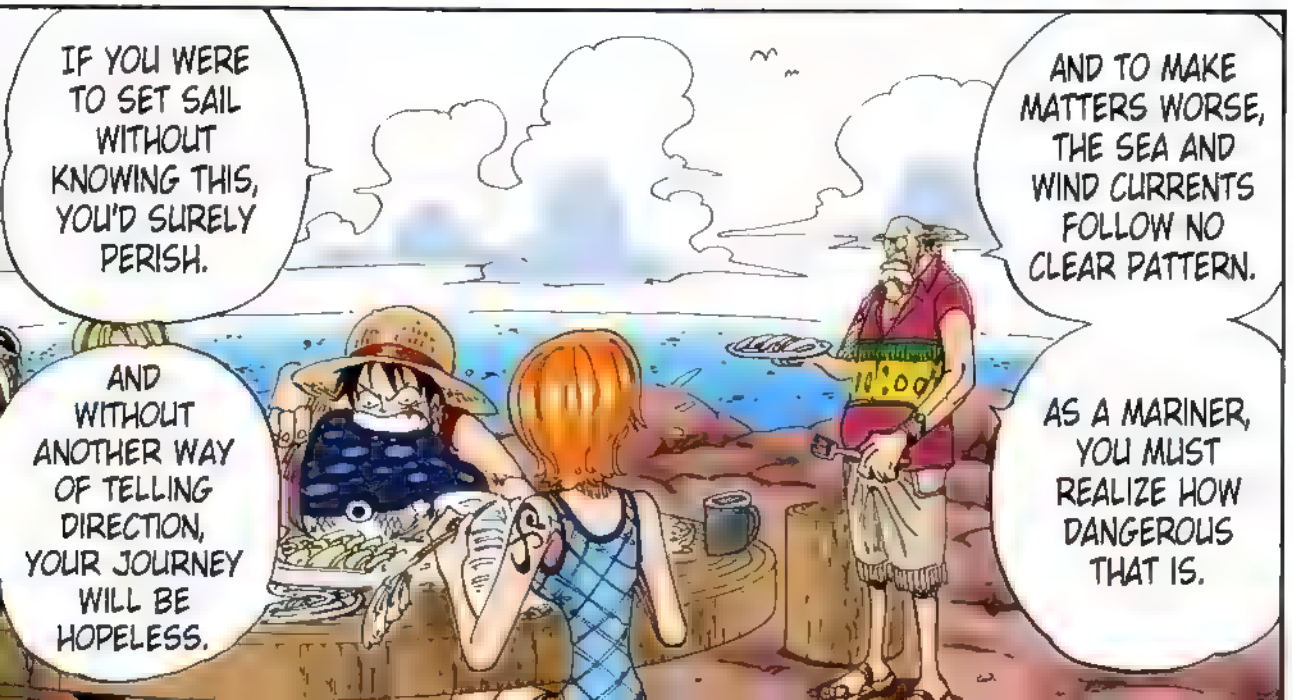

ALL RIGHT, TIME FOR LUNCH.
IF IT'S LUNCH YOU WANT, I HAVE IT ALL READY!♡
WHAT'S WRONG, NAMI?
HEY! WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET?
...

...

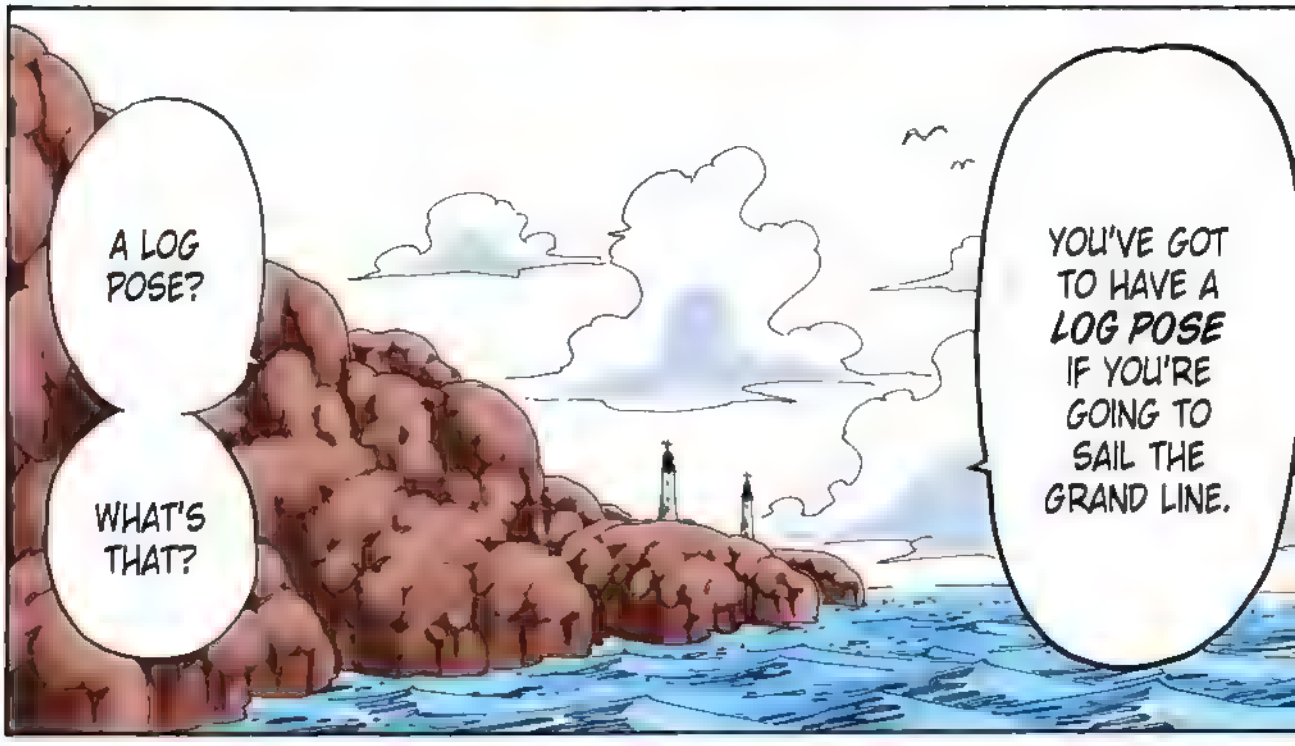

IT'S BROKEN! IT'S SPINNING LIKE CRAZY!
THE COM-PASS!

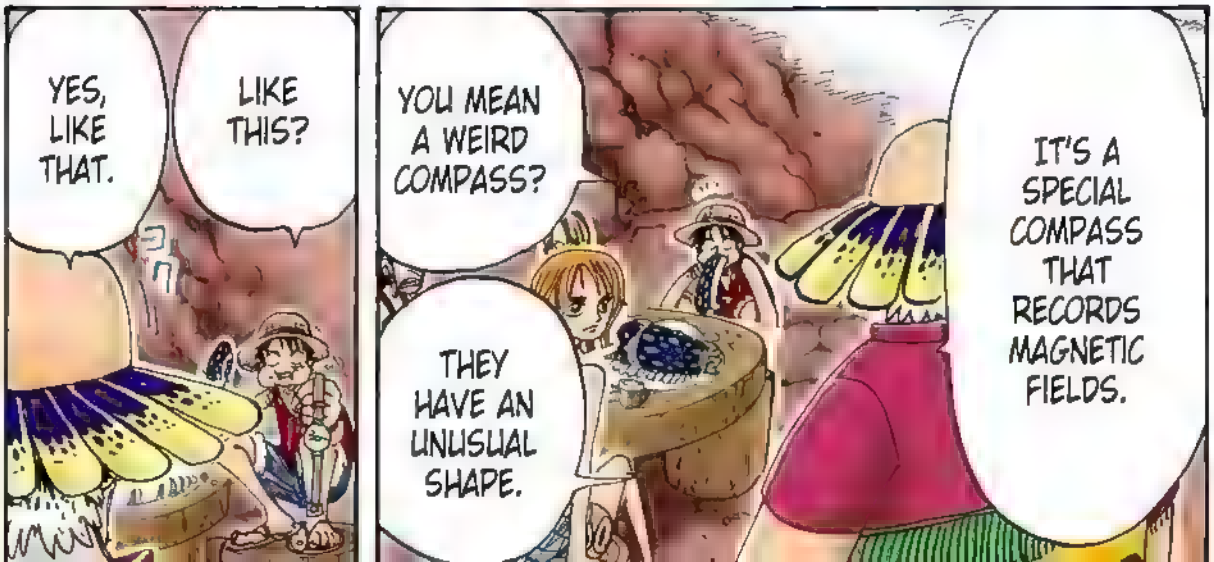
I TOLD YOU, THERE'S NOTHING NORMAL ABOUT THIS OCEAN.
YOUR COMPASS ISN'T BROKEN.
?
YOU CAN EAT HAY.
FOOD!
YOU CAME TO THE GRAND LINE UNPREPARED.
WELL I NEVER! WERE YOU PLANNING TO THROW YOUR LIVES AWAY?


THE REGION IS FILLED WITH ABNORMAL MAGNETIC FIELDS.
EXACTLY. THE MANY ISLANDS OF THE GRAND LINE ARE RICH IN MINERALS.
THEN WHAT IS IT? A MAGNETIC FIELD?


IF YOU WERE TO SET SAIL WITHOUT KNOWING THIS, YOU'D SURELY PERISH.
AND WITHOUT ANOTHER WAY OF TELLING DIRECTION, YOUR JOURNEY WILL BE HOPELESS.
AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THE SEA AND WIND CURRENTS FOLLOW NO CLEAR PATTERN.
AS A MARINER, YOU MUST REALIZE HOW DANGEROUS THAT IS.

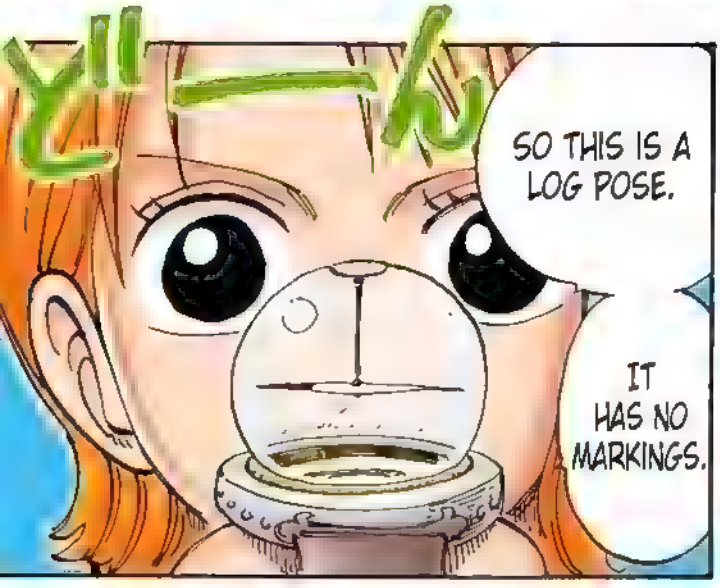
HEY, THE BLUEFIN TRUNK IS GOOD!!
SHUT UP!
WHAT'S BAD?
NAMI, YOU'RE STILL CUTE EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW SOMETHING!
THIS IS BAD! CAN YOU HANDLE IT?!
I... I DIDN'T KNOW.
ガーン
Don't worry, don't worry.


A LOG POSE?
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A LOG POSE IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAIL THE GRAND LINE.


YES, LIKE THAT.
LIKE THIS?
YOU MEAN A WEIRD COMPASS?
THEY HAVE AN UNUSUAL SHAPE.
IT'S A SPECIAL COMPASS THAT RECORDS MAGNETIC FIELDS.

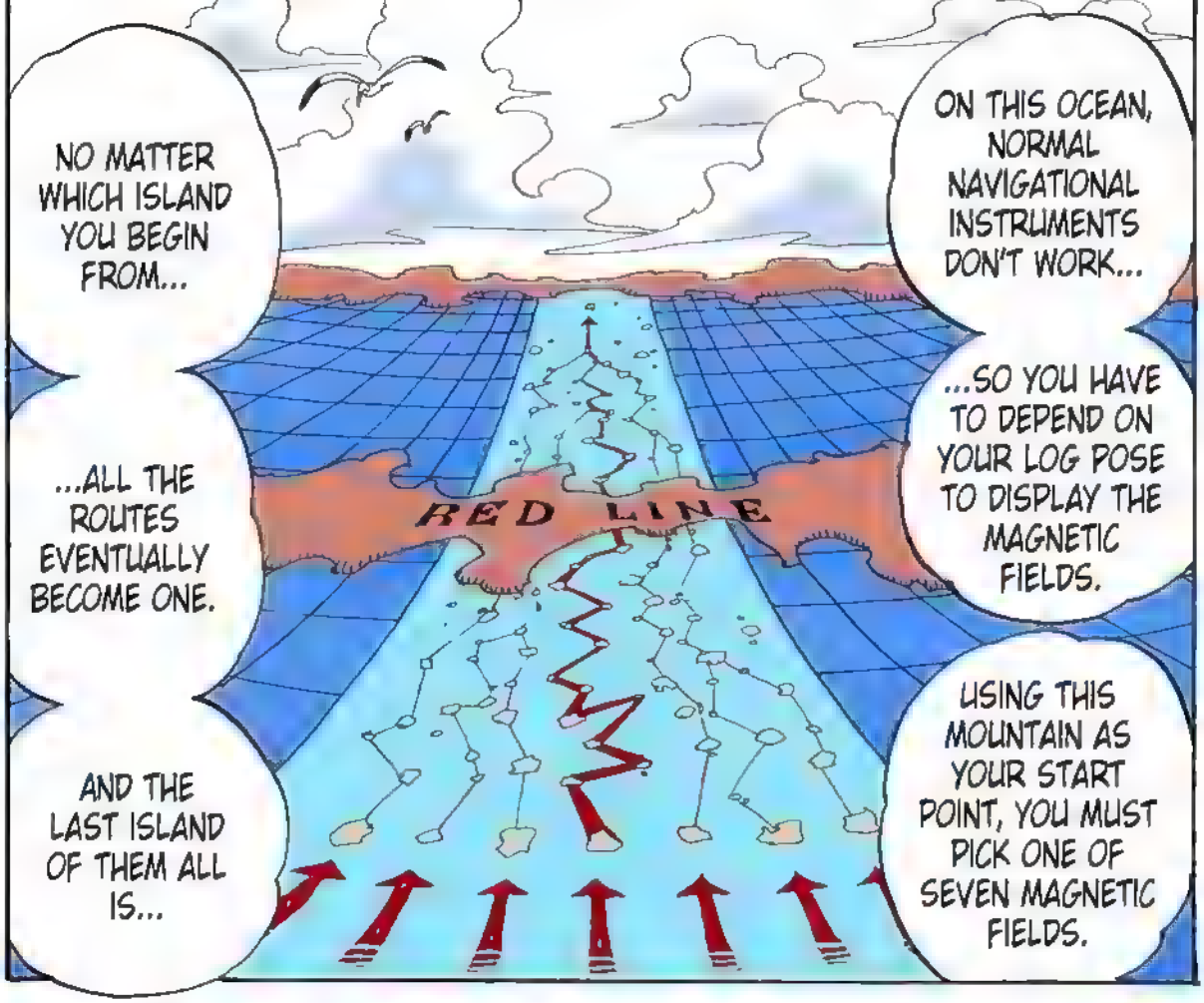
...WHERE'D YOU GET THAT?!
バコーン!!

I SEE. BUT WAIT A SECOND...
WITHOUT A LOG POSE, NAVIGATION IS IMPOSSIBLE.
JUST GETTING INTO THE GRAND LINE IS HARD ENOUGH.


ルーフ
SO THIS IS A LOG POSE.
IT HAS NO MARKINGS.

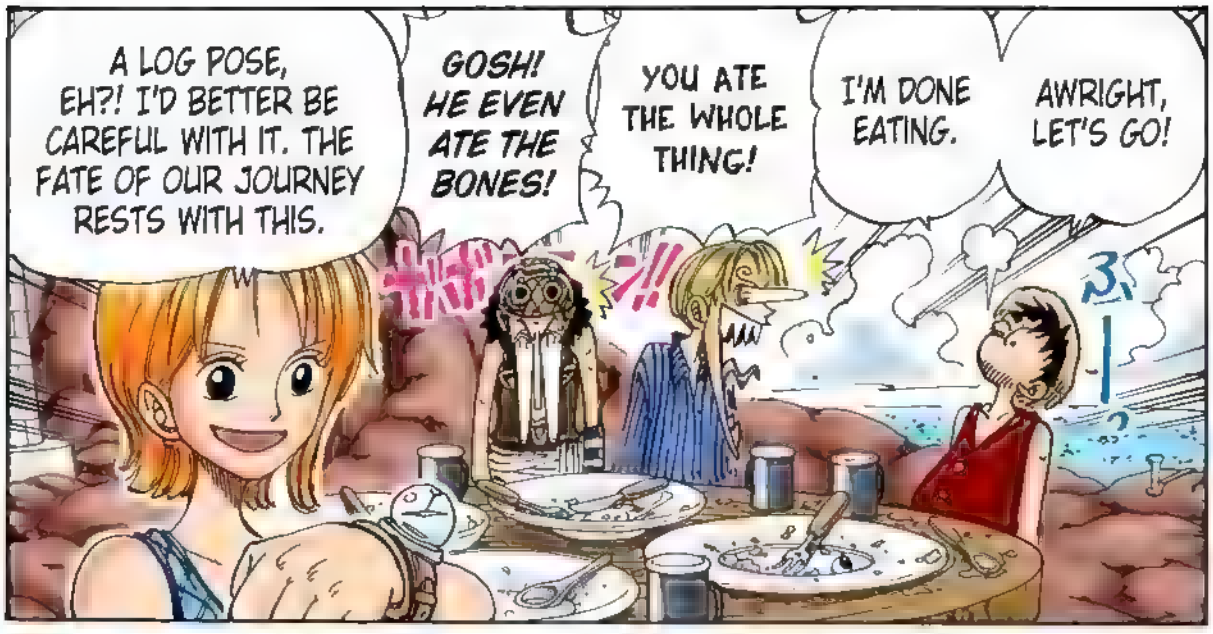
THOSE TWO?
THOSE STRANGE PEOPLE...
WHY'D YOU HIT ME?
JUST 'CAUSE.
"JUST 'CAUSE"?
...DROPPED IT WHEN THEY LEFT.

THEREFORE, YOU MUST RECORD THE MAGNETIC FIELD THAT CONNECTS ONE ISLAND TO ANOTHER IN THE LOG POSE...
...AND THEN SAIL TO THE NEXT ISLAND.
THE MANY ISLANDS OF THE GRAND LINE...
...HAVE MAGNETIC FIELDS THAT OPERATE ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN PECULIAR LAWS.

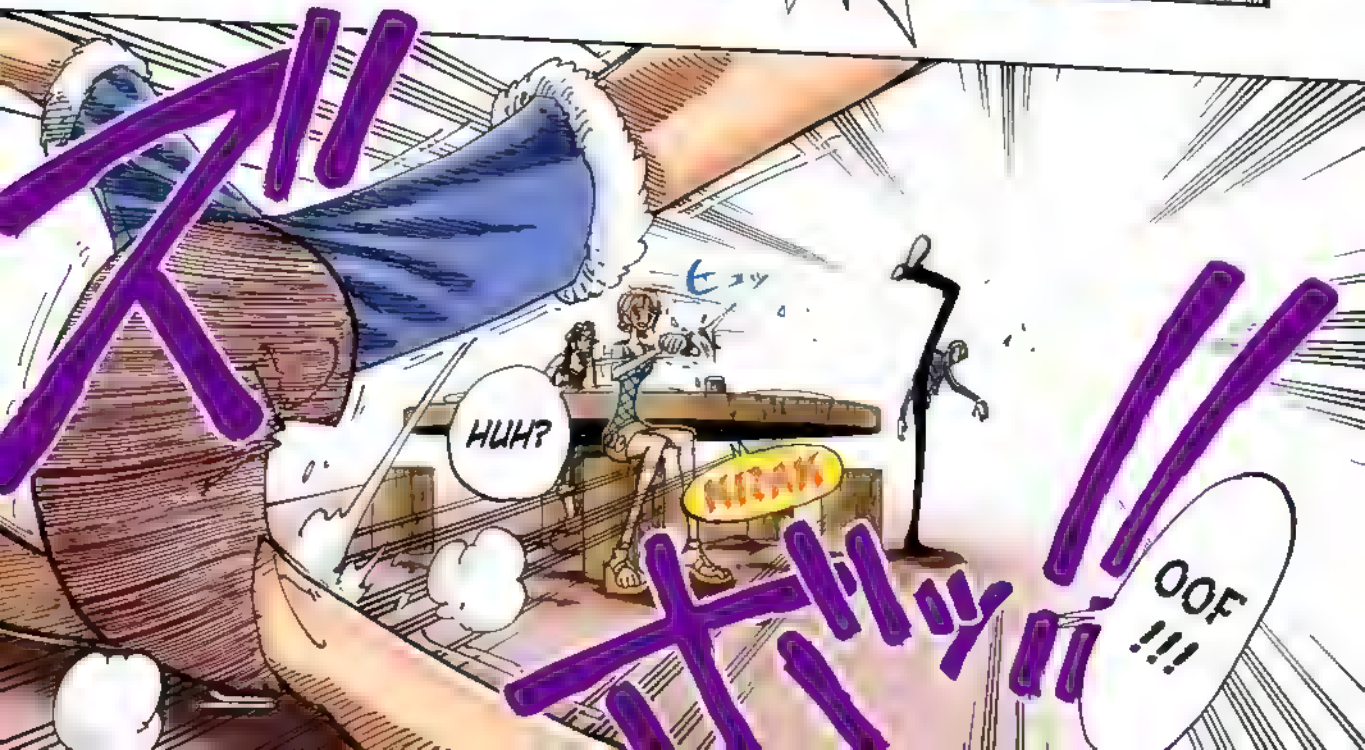

NO MATTER WHICH ISLAND YOU BEGIN FROM...
...ALL THE ROUTES EVENTUALLY BECOME ONE.
AND THE LAST ISLAND OF THEM ALL IS...
RED LINE
ON THIS OCEAN, NORMAL NAVIGATIONAL INSTRUMENTS DON'T WORK...
...SO YOU HAVE TO DEPEND ON YOUR LOG POSE TO DISPLAY THE MAGNETIC FIELDS.
USING THIS MOUNTAIN AS YOUR START POINT, YOU MUST PICK ONE OF SEVEN MAGNETIC FIELDS.

IN ALL OF HISTORY, ONLY ONE GROUP OF PIRATES IS KNOWN TO HAVE LANDED THERE FOR SURE... THE CREW OF THE PIRATE KING.
LAUGH TALE IS THE STUFF OF LEGEND.
...LAUGH TALE.
IT'S THE LAST ISLAND OF THE GRAND LINE.

THE TREASURE THAT CONNECTS ALL AS ONE, THE ONE PIECE!!
IS THAT WHERE IT IS?!
THOUGH THAT'S THE PREVAILING THEORY, NO ONE ELSE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM IT YET.
...
PERHAPS.
...WE JUST GOTTA GET THERE TO FIND OUT!!!
YOU MEAN...

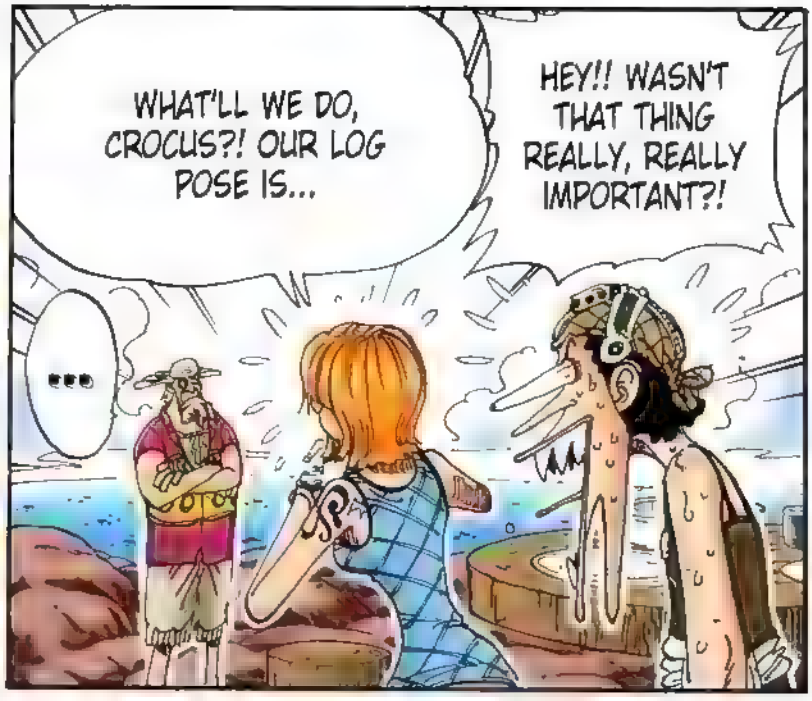

A LOG POSE, EH?! I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL WITH IT. THE FATE OF OUR JOURNEY RESTS WITH THIS.
GOSH! HE EVEN ATE THE BONES!
YOU ATE THE WHOLE THING!
I'M DONE EATING.
AWRIGHT, LET'S GO!

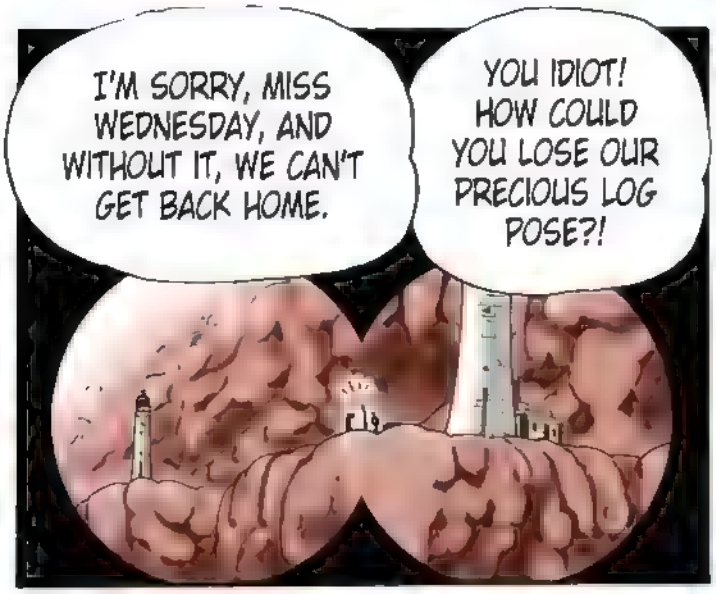
UGH !!!
...TO HAVE THE BEST OF IT!
YOU RUBBER SHIT! I WANTED NAMI... I WANTED HER...

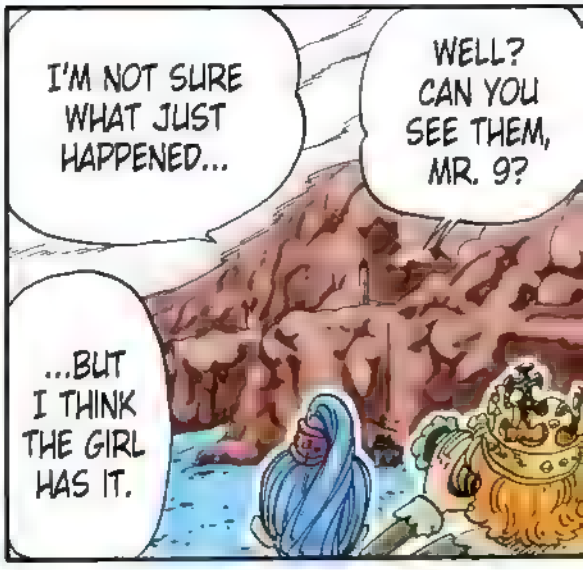

HUH?
OOF !!!

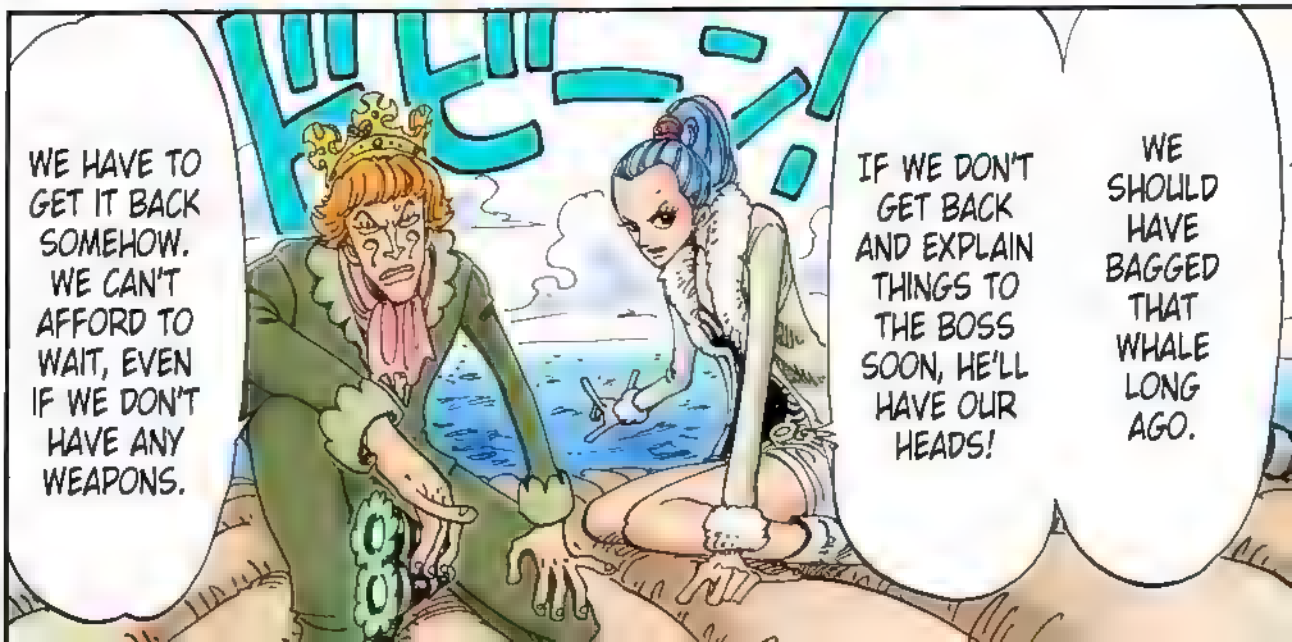
?
...
ペラペラ
ドカーン
あああああ
GO SOAK YOUR HEADS!!
ザブーン
GULP!
OOGH!!

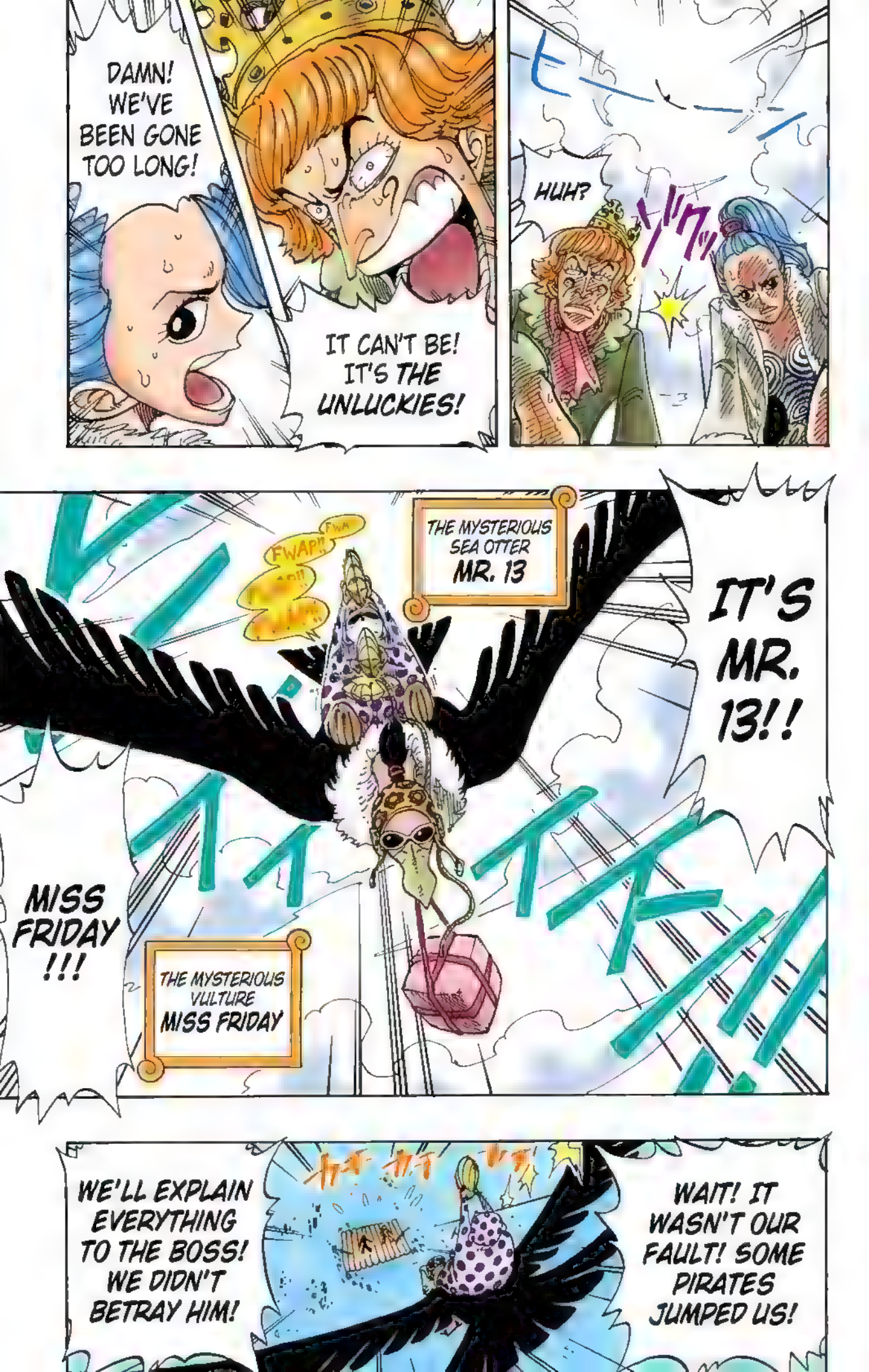
DON'T PANIC. YOU CAN HAVE MINE AS THANKS FOR HELPING LABOON.

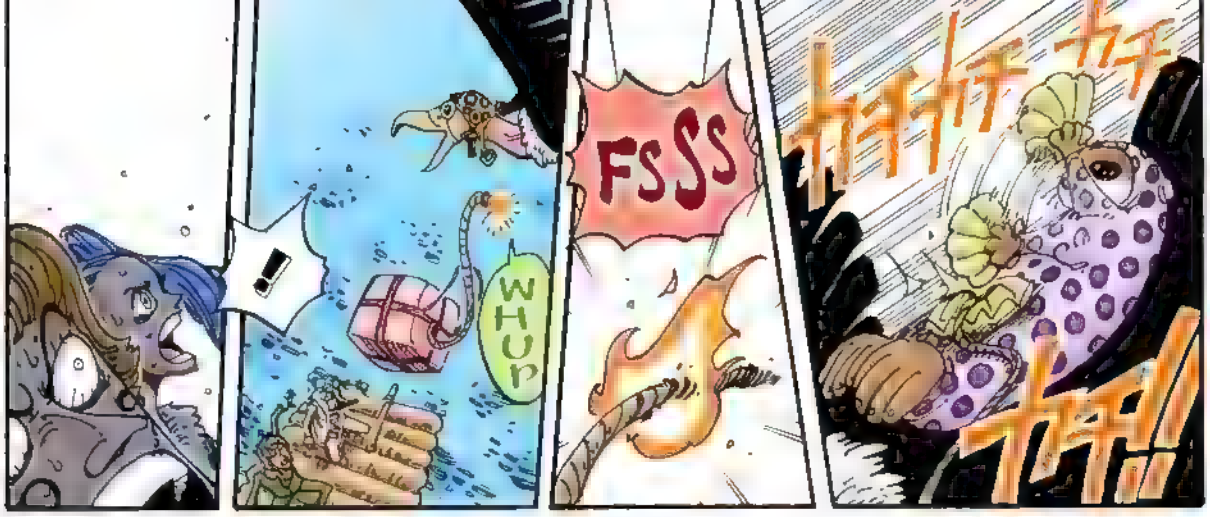

WHAT'LL WE DO, CROCUS?! OUR LOG POSE IS...
HEY!! WASN'T THAT THING REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT?!


I'M SORRY, MISS WEDNESDAY, AND WITHOUT IT, WE CAN'T GET BACK HOME.
YOU IDIOT! HOW COULD YOU LOSE OUR PRECIOUS LOG POSE?!

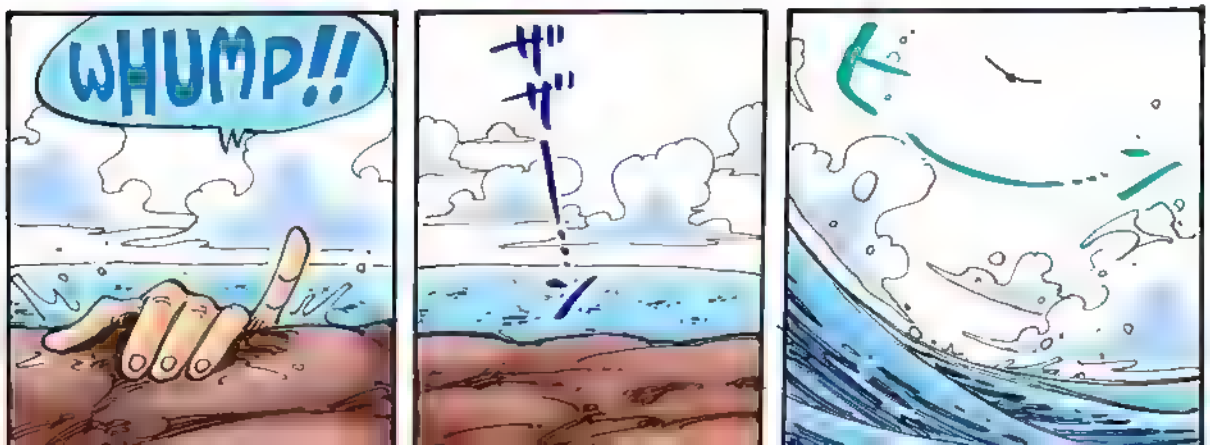

I'M NOT SURE WHAT JUST HAPPENED...
WELL? CAN YOU SEE THEM, MR. 9?
...BUT I THINK THE GIRL HAS IT.


WE HAVE TO GET IT BACK SOMEHOW. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT, EVEN IF WE DON'T HAVE ANY WEAPONS.
IF WE DON'T GET BACK AND EXPLAIN THINGS TO THE BOSS SOON, HE'LL HAVE OUR HEADS!
WE SHOULD HAVE BAGGED THAT WHALE LONG AGO.

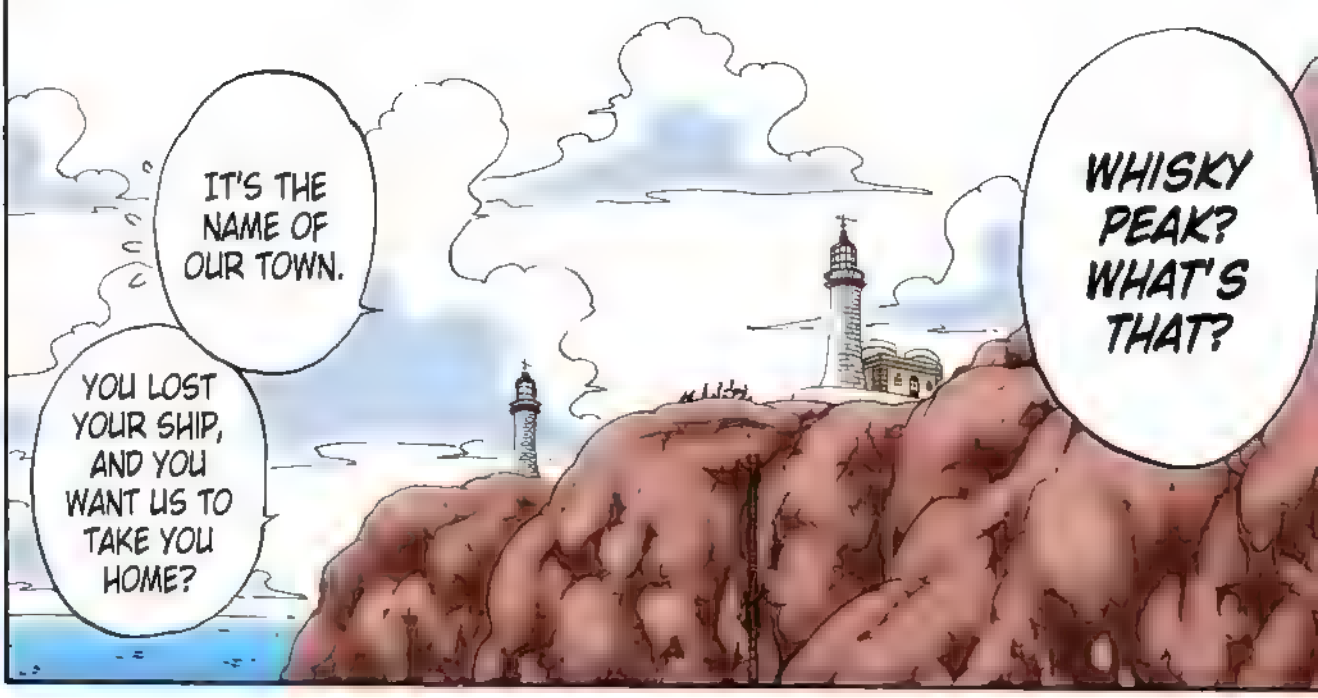

DAMN! WE'VE BEEN GONE TOO LONG!
IT CAN'T BE! IT'S THE UNLUCKIES!
HUH?
FWAP!!
THE MYSTERIOUS SEA OTTER MR. 13
IT'S MR. 13!!
MISS FRIDAY !!!
THE MYSTERIOUS VULTURE MISS FRIDAY
WE'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO THE BOSS! WE DIDN'T BETRAY HIM!
WAIT! IT WASN'T OUR FAULT! SOME PIRATES JUMPED US!

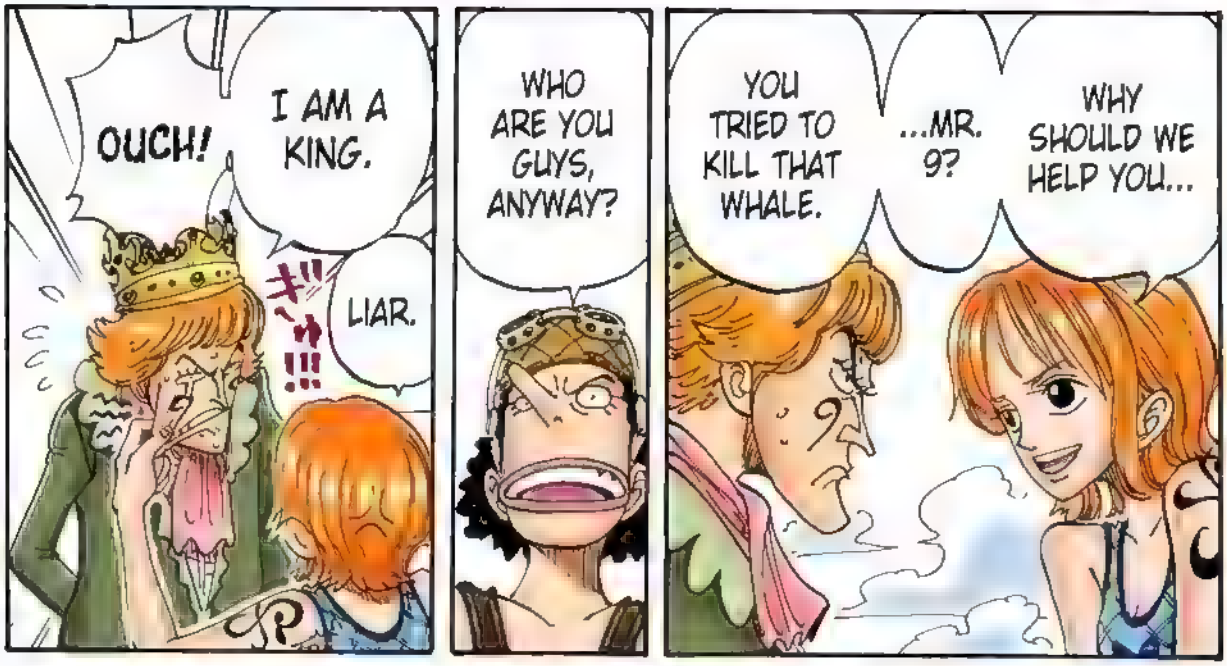

!
WHUP
FSSS
カチャーキ
カチ!!

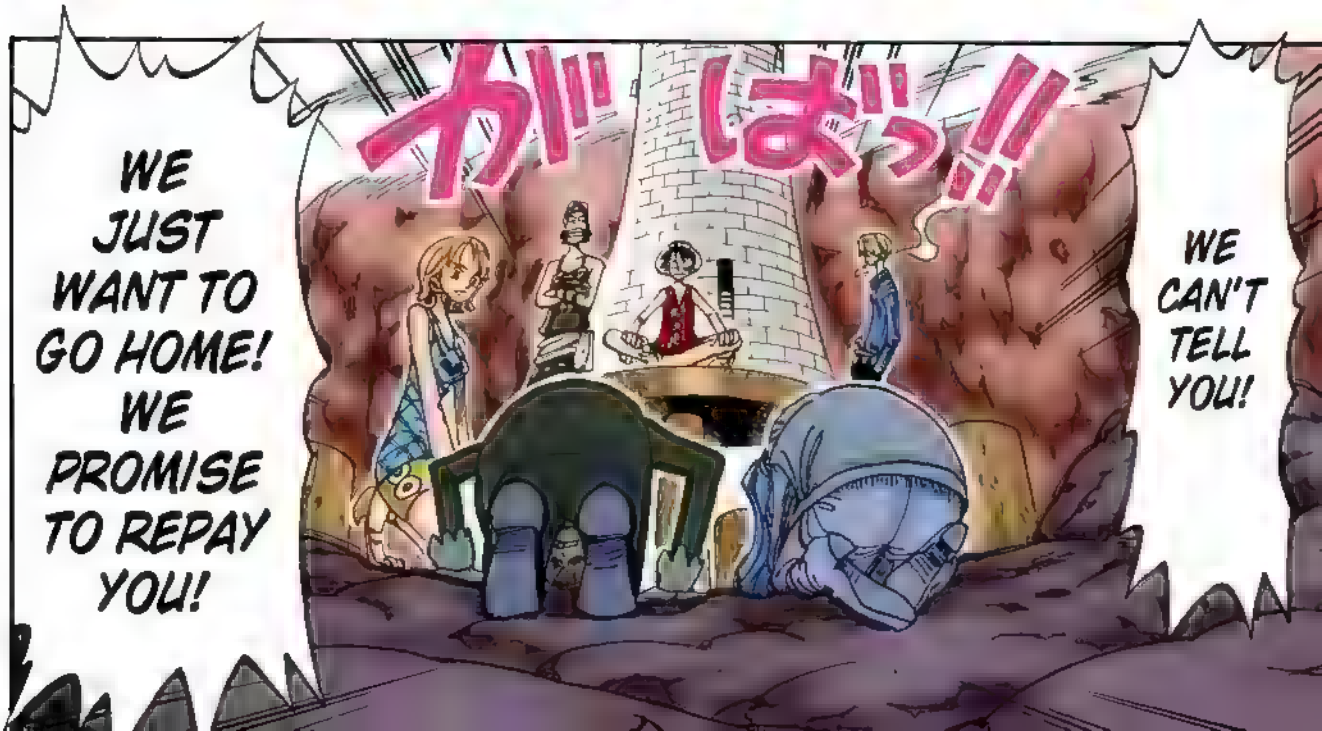
ドーン オオ
-EPPPPG

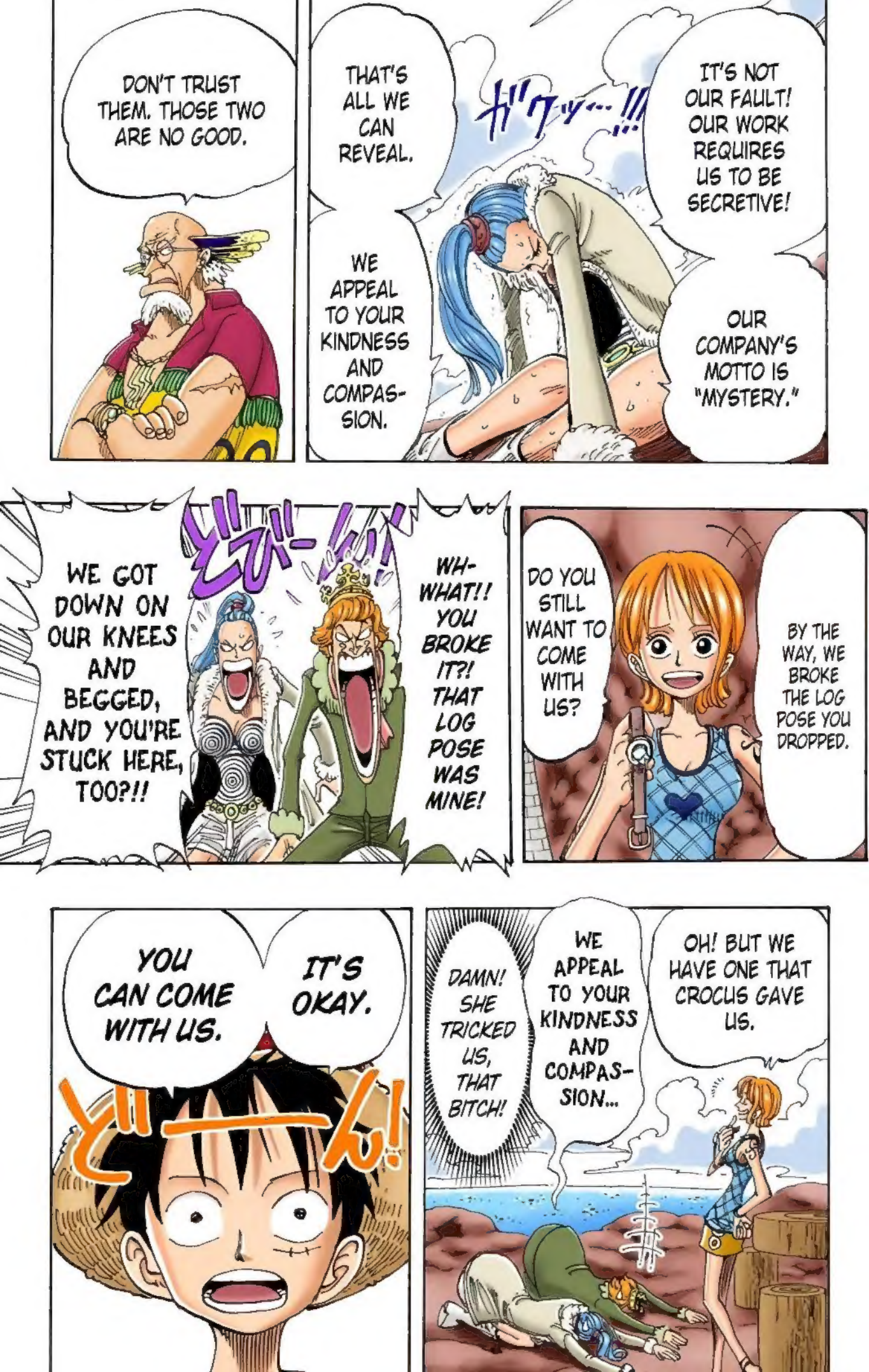

WHUMP!!
ザザ
ド

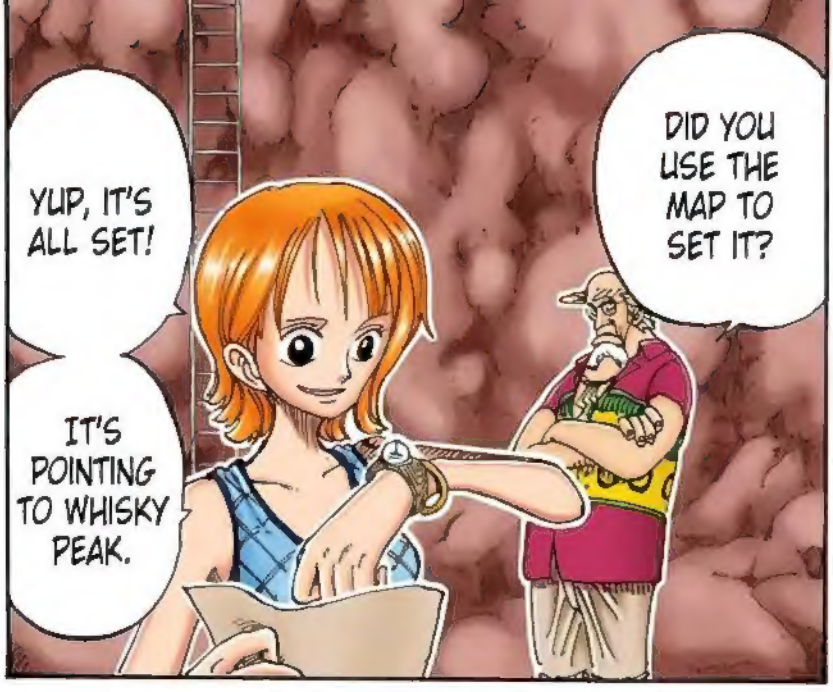
HABAGACK !!!
GACK!
GACK!
GACK!
ゼ ゼ ゼ イ イ イ
HUH?!
ハ?
WE HAVE A REQUEST.
HEY!
?!
...MISS WEDNESDAY.
ALLOW ME...
OH, THANK YOU.


WHISKY PEAK? WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S THE NAME OF OUR TOWN.
YOU LOST YOUR SHIP, AND YOU WANT US TO TAKE YOU HOME?

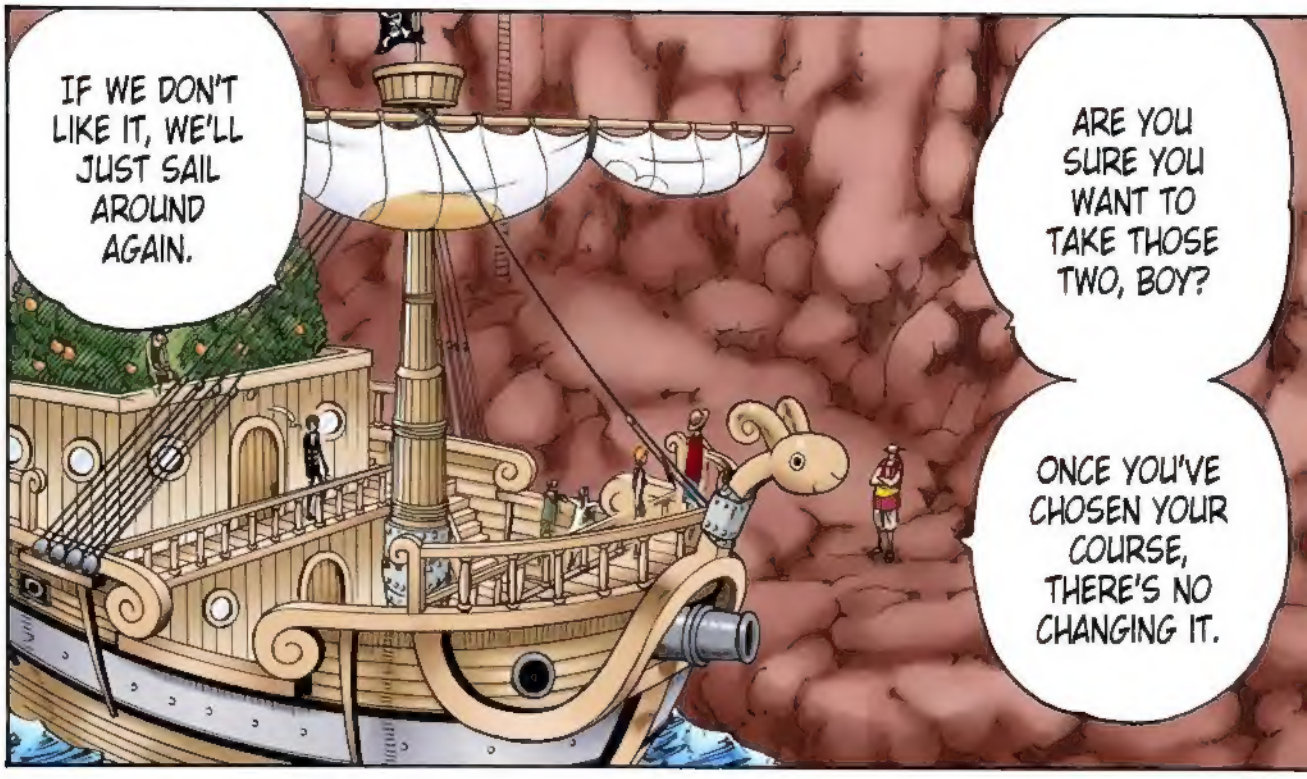

OUCH!
I AM A KING.
LIAR.
キ!!ゃ!!!
WHO ARE YOU GUYS, ANYWAY?
YOU TRIED TO KILL THAT WHALE.
...MR. 9?
WHY SHOULD WE HELP YOU...

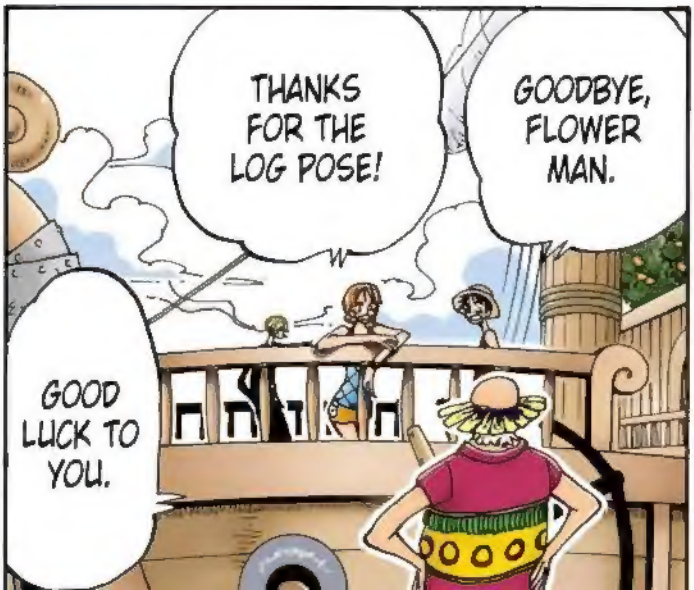

WE JUST WANT TO GO HOME! WE PROMISE TO REPAY YOU!
がばっ!!
WE CAN'T TELL YOU!

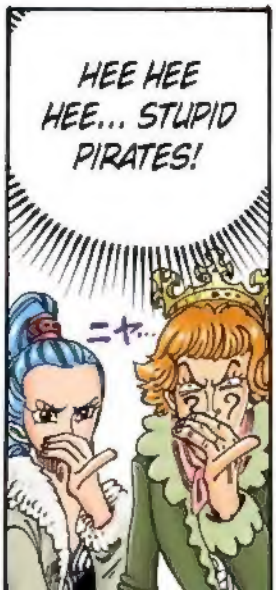

DON'T TRUST THEM. THOSE TWO ARE NO GOOD.
THAT'S ALL WE CAN REVEAL.
WE APPEAL TO YOUR KINDNESS AND COMPAS-SION.
ガクッ…!!
IT'S NOT OUR FAULT! OUR WORK REQUIRES US TO BE SECRETIVE!
OUR COMPANY'S MOTTO IS "MYSTERY."
WE GOT DOWN ON OUR KNEES AND BEGGED, AND YOU'RE STUCK HERE, TOO?!!
どびー!!
WH-WHAT!! YOU BROKE IT?! THAT LOG POSE WAS MINE!
DO YOU STILL WANT TO COME WITH US?
BY THE WAY, WE BROKE THE LOG POSE YOU DROPPED.
YOU CAN COME WITH US.
IT'S OKAY.
どーん!
DAMN! SHE TRICKED US, THAT BITCH!
WE APPEAL TO YOUR KINDNESS AND COMPAS-SION...
OH! BUT WE HAVE ONE THAT CROCUS GAVE US.


YUP, IT'S ALL SET!
IT'S POINTING TO WHISKY PEAK.
DID YOU USE THE MAP TO SET IT?

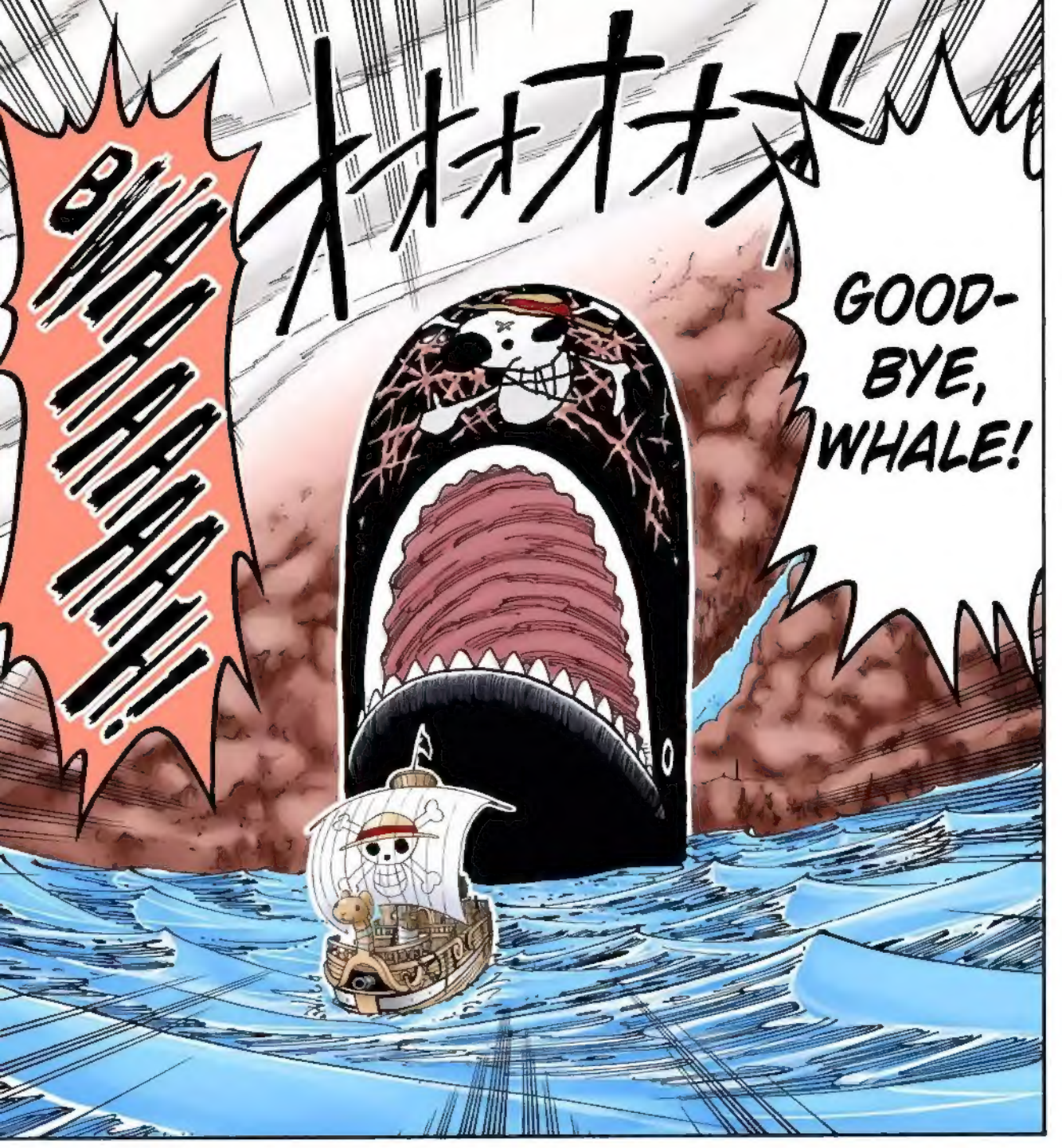
IT'S TIME.
THE LOG SHOULD BE ADJUSTED.


IF WE DON'T LIKE IT, WE'LL JUST SAIL AROUND AGAIN.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO TAKE THOSE TWO, BOY?
ONCE YOU'VE CHOSEN YOUR COURSE, THERE'S NO CHANGING IT.


THANKS FOR THE LOG POSE!
GOODBYE, FLOWER MAN.
GOOD LUCK TO YOU.


HEE HEE HEE... STUPID PIRATES!
ニャ...

SO YOU WILL.


オオオオオ
BWAHAHAH!!
GOOD-BYE, WHALE!

...EH, ROGER?
COULD THAT BUNCH BE THE PIRATES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL THIS TIME?
THAT BOY HAS A STRANGE AIR ABOUT HIM...

Q: To what extent can Buggy split himself up? I've been thinking about it so much that I've let my hair grow for three days straight.

A: Buggy, eh? Well, I'll just say, into BIG chunks. Too small and he'd lose control of himself. But that aside, since you've been growing your hair, why don't you enter the Cool Hair Contest that came up earlier?

Q: All right! Let's start the SBS Corner!

A: Bwah ha ha ha! Yay! I brought that up right out of the blue! Surprised? There have been a lot of postcards like that lately. And postcards like this:

Q: On page 78 of volume 9, the panel shows the kanji characters *koi* (love) and *sake* (rice wine), but you didn't mean *koi* (carp) and *sake* (salmon), did you? I mean, you wouldn't do that, would you? By the way, what kind of Fish-Men are they?

A: That's such old material, I can't remember. Umm... Anyway...

Q: Hello! This postcard is to Oda Sensei, who else? Oh, I forgot to introduce myself. I'm Timmy Maiko! Does the name "Timmy" ring a bell? That's right, it's just like Timmy Ueda! I'm Ueda's younger sister. My brother owes you for volume 10. This time, I'm writing the thank you postcard. I'm the *hee-hee* ♡ loving sister, and that's where I'll stop before Oda Sensei puts an end to this. After all, I am a member of the SBS hijacking gang.

SBS is over!

A: Aaargh! Not again! Why, you--Timmy!